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VE-DAY MAGIC
Margot Norman on how to stage a 1945-style street party, **page 16**

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THE TIMES

No. 65,253 FRIDAY APRIL 28 1995 RK

THE UNIVERSITY SERIALS DIVISION

Fury at 'mean and shabby' pay deal

Nurses seek to lift ban on striking

By Jeremy Laurance, Health Services Correspondent

Hancock: "We will not roll over and die"

NURSES moved closer to taking industrial action than at any point in the history of the health service yesterday when leaders of the Royal College of Nursing called for an end to its no-strike policy.

The unanimous decision by the 25-member governing council is a damaging blow to the Government and marks a breakdown in the consensus that has kept the peace with nurses for the past 40 years.

The college has always considered the no-strike policy a bargaining tool which puts the onus on the Government to award fair pay increases, and its council has resisted all previous attempts to change the rule banning strikes. But now, angered by a 1 per cent pay award with local top-ups, it aims to replace the rule with one allowing limited industrial action.

The decision must be ratified at the college's congress in Harrogate next month and should then go to a ballot of all 300,000 members. A spokesman said it would be extraordinary if the ballot did not back the council, although it had no immediate plans for industrial action.

Nurses are angry at the Government's offer of a national 1 per cent pay rise with local top-ups of up to 2 per cent, when hospital consultants have been awarded nearly twice as much.

In the Commons yesterday, John Major said that nurses had seen their pay rise by 78% over the last six years — "twice as fast as in the economy as a whole" and claimed that "a great many" nurses had accepted local pay settlements. But Unison, the biggest health union, said his remarks were "grossly misleading and just plain wrong". Bob Abberley, the union's head of health, said no nurse had accepted a settlement and early indications showed a clear rejection of the pay offer.

The Prime Minister had been responding to a claim by Tony Blair that the effect of local pay bargaining in the health service was to pit "nurse against nurse, hospital against hospital, doctor against doctor ... commercialising it, demoralising it, breaking it up".

Christine Hancock, general secretary of the RCN, said yesterday that nurses had never been so angry and blamed ministers who presumed they would just take what they were given for the move to lift the strike ban.

"It is a measure of the mean and shabby way that nurses have been treated that they are now prepared to contemplate industrial action," she said. "I place the responsibility for the anger of nurses squarely on the shoulders of Virginia Bottomley. I can only assume that the Government thought doctors have to be placated while nurses can be given any medicine ... They are wrong. We are not going to roll over and die."

Ms Hancock said nurses would never do anything that would directly harm patients, but trusts were vulnerable to administrative disruption.

The complexity of the pay dispute was illustrated yesterday by the case of nurses at the North Hampshire Hospital in Basingstoke, who were made two different pay offers. Those employed by North Hampshire Hospitals NHS Trust have been offered the full 3 per cent, while their colleagues employed by the North Hampshire (Loddon) Community NHS Trust have been offered 2.7 per cent because the board says it cannot afford any more.

About 200 of the 500 NHS trusts have so far made pay offers to nurses, of which 150 have been for the full 3 per cent. Many trusts are holding back until they have negotiated their contracts for next year and know what income they can expect. But Ken Jarrold, director of human resources at the NHS Executive, said he had written to all trusts asking those that had not made pay offers to do so without delay.

Last month, the Royal College of Midwives voted to end its ban on strikes, and Unisonis consulting its membership on industrial action.

DAVID POOLE

Winston Churchill at the Imperial War Museum yesterday. He refused to confirm that the sale of the papers would make him a millionaire

Tories join protests over the £12.5 million Lottery purchase of the Churchill papers

By Philip Webster
and Andrew Pierce

WINSTON CHURCHILL defended himself in the growing storm over the sale of his grandfather's papers last night by declaring that Britain's wartime leader had wanted his family to benefit from them.

The Conservative MP claimed that they could have fetched £25 million on the open market, twice the sum paid for them with funds from the National Lottery.

In his first comments since the furore broke over the £12.5m purchase for the nation of Sir Winston Churchill's collection of speeches and letters, his grandson and leading beneficiary suggested that the sale had complied with his grandfather's wishes.

When he put his papers in trust for the benefit of his male heirs in 1946 "he had little more to his name than the suit he was standing in, apart from this mountain of papers", the MP said.

He said: "He was a dynast. He believed in doing what he could for his family. At that particular juncture in his life — he was 70 — when he did not think he had many more years to live this was the only thing he had to leave. It was my grandfather's decision. He was not a monkey at a typewriter. He did things with deliberation."

An unrepentant Mr Churchill spoke out after the Prime Minister defended the purchase of the papers against a barrage of protests from Conservative as well as Opposition MPs.

David Mellor, the former Cabinet minister, led the attack on the decision saying: "A lot of people will feel lottery money should not go to the Churchill family and will regret that these archives were not made available to the nation in the way that previous archives have, without private payment."

Sir Winston: left papers for the benefit of his male descendants

Other Tories were fierce in their private criticism. Another grandson of Sir Winston, Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, made plain that he was not a beneficiary.

With Mr Churchill looking on, Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, declared in the Commons that Sir Winston would be "turning in his grave" over the use of the public's money to buy the papers.

But during noisy exchanges the Prime Minister insisted that Sir Winston had decreed the documents should go to his descendants. "There is no question whatever of lottery money having been used to purchase papers that are the property of the state," he said.

Mr Churchill said last night that the intervention of the lottery fund had prevented the collection from going abroad or being broken up. He refused to confirm whether he stands to become a millionaire from the proceeds. Peregrine Churchill, Sir Winston's nephew, who is a trustee of the collection, last night reiterated that up to £5 million of the lottery money would go the archive. "It will be used for computerisation and to bring it right into the 21st century."

But the suggestion was immediately contradicted by Mr Churchill, who said: "I think he is confusing the issue. He is hoping to put the archives on CD-Rom which will be paid for by a commercial organisation. This money is intended, as my grandfather wished it, for his male heirs."

Dr Piers Brendon, the Keeper of the Churchill Archives Centre, said: "At no time has it ever been indicated to us that we will get any of the £12.5 million."

Peregrine Churchill said: "The lottery is a disgrace which should be abolished. It encourages people to think that they can get something for nothing. They might as well burgle homes."

Setback for MP, page 7
Norman Stone and Diary, page 18
Leading article and letters, page 19

US reassured on Russian gas explosion

From Anne McElvoy
in Moscow

A fireball shot thousands of feet into the sky above Russia yesterday after a gas pipeline fractured, forcing Moscow to reassure Washington.

The fire near Ukhta, 800 miles northeast of Moscow in Komi Republic, burnt for more than two hours after a spark ignited a gas leak from a pipe. Residents fled, thinking war had broken out. Nobody was killed or injured

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Leading article, page 19

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Divorce by mediation given wide welcome

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

A WHITE Paper designed to take the acrimony and the adversarial nature out of divorce was broadly welcomed by church leaders yesterday. Lawyers, for whom the proposals will mean a reduced role, were more cautious.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, said he hoped the reforms, the biggest shake-up in 30 years, would be swiftly implemented.

Under the proposals, the "quickie" divorce will be scrapped and couples will have to undergo a 12-month minimum period of mediation and reflection to give them time to agree on the future of their children, the division of property and that the breakdown is irreconcilable.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference said the reforms, which the White Paper says will make divorce harder, were an attempt to "direct public policy towards minimising the distress and damage caused by the high rates of divorce."

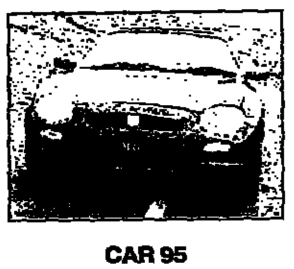
Nigel Shepherd, president of the Solicitors' Family Law Association, welcomed the scrapping of "fault" in the proposals but said the thrust of reforms steered people away from "personalised legal advice", which could lead to "serious exploitation of people at their most vulnerable."

Paul Boateng MP, Labour's legal affairs spokesman, said his party backed the principles but added that there must be further research or the family justice system faced another "Child Support Act scenario".

Lord Mackay — "deeply committed to lifelong marriage as an idea" — is to take over responsibility for marriage guidance.

White Paper, page 4

TOMORROW IN THE TIMES



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THE SIX-SECTION TIMES: 30p ON SATURDAY

Official Ireland trip for Prince of Wales

By Richard Ford and Nicholas Watt

THE Prince of Wales is to visit the Irish Republic in the summer, the first member of the Royal Family to travel there in an official capacity since Partition.

The Prince will visit Dublin, once the seat of British rule in Ireland, and carry out a series of public engagements. The visit was disclosed by his office last night but full plans for his itinerary, and whether he will go to Co Sligo where his uncle, Lord Mountbatten, was blown up by an IRA bomb, have yet to be decided in consultations between St James's Palace and the Irish Government.

The Irish Embassy in London said the visit would be the first official trip by a member of the Royal Family since partition in 1920. The last was by George V in 1911.

During his visit the Prince will meet President Robinson. Her meeting with the Queen at Buckingham Palace in May 1993 was the first between an Irish head of state and a British sovereign since 1937, and led to speculation that a member of the Royal Family would make an official visit to the Republic.

However, a visit by the Queen was always unlikely given the diplomatic implications of her travelling to a state with a constitutional claim to Northern Ireland.

Despite the eight-month IRA ceasefire which, together with both governments working closely together on the peace process, has probably made the visit possible, the Prince will be surrounded by tight security.

Relations between London and Dublin are warm. Downing Street said last night that the visit was going ahead with the knowledge and approval of John Major.

VE Day protocol provides London with a problem

By Michael Binyon
Diplomatic Editor

MORE than 50 kings, presidents and prime ministers have accepted the Government's invitation to attend the VE-Day commemorations in London, giving organisers a trickier protocol challenge than at any state occasion since the funeral of Winston Churchill.

At the last minute, a formula has been found to extend an invitation to former King Michael of Romania, a staunch ally of Britain until his deposition by the Communists in 1946 and the only remaining head of state alive who led his country during the Second World War. No state invitation had been extended to him because he now lives in exile and Britain was reluctant to antagonise the present former Communist leaders of Romania. In the end, an unofficial invitation was obtained for him by one of the other guests. Standard diplomatic protocol has been discarded to avoid offence to those leaders who believe they should have pride of place either in a personal capacity or because their countries played key roles during the war. Under long-established tradition, ruling monarchs take precedence over presidents, who in turn come before prime ministers.

In this case, however, every representative will be seated according to length of office. Thus King Husain of Jordan, one of the world's longest-serving leaders, will have pride of place ahead of all the other representatives; and the new president of Greece, in office for only a few weeks, will be one of the lowliest.

All countries whose forces were engaged in the European theatre of war at brigade level or more have been invited to send representatives to London.

Problems have arisen over states that have split or disappeared since 1945, especially those without embassies in London.

All the successor states of the Soviet Union have been invited, but from Yugoslavia only the leaders of Bosnia, Croatia, Slovenia and Macedonia are on the list. No invitations were sent to Serbia, Montenegro and the rump federal state of Yugoslavia, on the grounds that Britain does not recognise them and United Nations sanctions are in force.

Almost all countries are sending their heads of state except the United States, represented by Vice-President Al Gore.

Mussolini "sham", page 10

King Michael: received unofficial invitation

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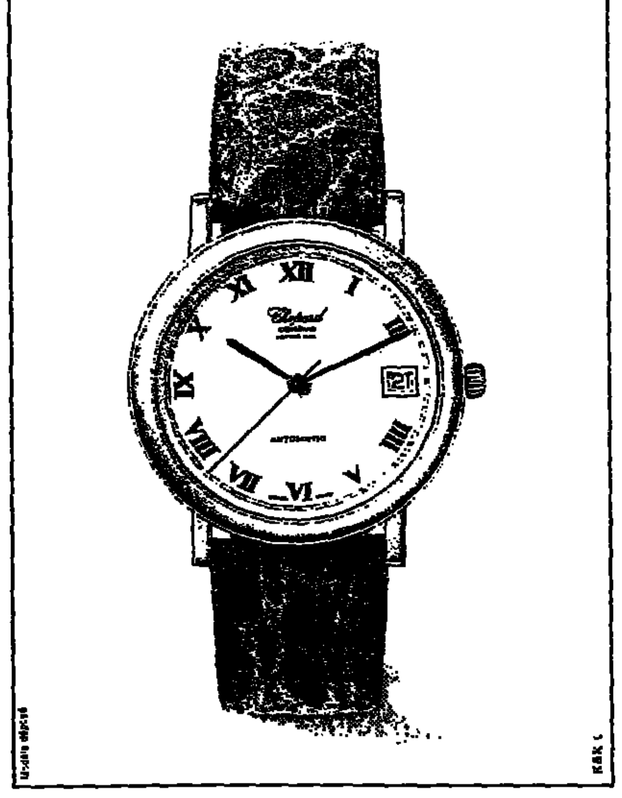

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Sir Edward the elder statesman takes us on a grand piano tour

MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

At Sir Edward Heath's home in the Close, by Salisbury Cathedral, the great man is said to keep a grand piano, on whose shiny *top stands a forest of photographs*. There is (perhaps) Sir Edward with the French President; Sir Edward with Otto Klemperer; with Kruschev, Brezhnev, Nixon and de Gaulle.

Jostling with Sir Edward and Moira Shearer, the Emperor of Ethiopia and Margot Fonteyn, is (no doubt) Sir Edward with the last surviving Hottentot. Adjacent *stands* Sir Edward with Sir Winston, the photograph as yet unclaimed by the National Lottery.

This piano is (visitors re*port*) a wondrous sight. Yet, generous host though he is, in a populous country like ours it is sad but true that many millions will never be able to visit Sir Edward's piano themselves. Whole swaths of our *nation will never marvel at* this witness to his past statesmanship.

Yesterday at the Commons, kindly Sir Edward did his best to put that right. The House and the listening public were taken on a guided tour of the ex-premier's piano*top. Time being short, and the* debate being on China and Hong Kong, this tour was restricted to the Far Eastern section of its polished surface.

We did not proceed straight to Hong Kong. Sir Edward had also been to Vietnam. "In Vietnam they said to me, 'why *have you come so late?*'" We understood it was Britain which was late, not Sir Edward.

From Hanoi we flew to China, Sir Edward arriving in humorous mood. "I said: 'Chairman Mao gave me two pandas. They have died. Can I have two more?' . . . They said Yes, for a million *dollars* a year. 'We have a market *economy now*.'"

More seriously, Sir Edward had heard talk of the Chinese leadership being in trouble. This was rubbish. "Having *met them all ten days ago*, I've never known them so relaxed."

China's stability assured, we moved to human rights. "I *was once asked by Den Xiaoping* . . ." asked, it seemed, what *he* would do about human rights.

Sir Edward had been unable to advise. That disposed of that.

How about Tibet? "I went to Tibet several years ago and saw *it all* then." Ah. Sir Edward did not exactly say *what* he had seen. And the Dalai Lama? "I talk to the Dalai Lama frequently." Some MPs, however, though glad about this for the Dalai Lama, remained concerned about his future. Not Sir Edward. "I *put it to* Deng Xiaoping ten years ago: 'Can the Dalai Lama go back to Tibet?' He said: 'Yes . . . if he goes as a spiritual not a political leader. So he can't complain'."

And then back *to* Hong Kong. "I found the utmost *admiration for the police* chief there." This officer will be relieved to hear of Sir Edward's researches, and their result: "He will be allowed to stay on."

Aware that we had only explored a *small corner of Sir* Edward's piano, time never*theless pressed*, and, sadly, the tour had to end.

It had been a rambling affair, punctuated with a few lazily delivered kicks to the present Governor's *shin* (*just* to help him in his task), and *interspersed* with a couple of half-pats on the back for the Foreign Secretary, Douglas Hurd, delivered with weary condescension.

Sir Edward was pleased to acknowledge that Mr Hurd *seemed to* be making progress in his intellectual journey, judging his speech to have hit a "quiet and conciliatory" note of which Sir Edward approved.

"I hope the Foreign Secretary will be *able to* carry on this reconciliation."

Having made Mr Hurd's task just that little bit harder, Sir Edward sat down.

Electrical companies accused of price-fixing

By Our Business Staff

THE *Monopolies and* Mergers Commission is to investigate the pricing of electrical goods after a two-year Office of Fair Trading inquiry concluded *that* manufacturers may be keeping the cost of television sets, music systems, camcorders and fridges artificially high.

Sir Bryan Carsberg, the OFT Director-General, said: "Our information indicates that some manufacturers have been engaging in practices *designed to sustain retail* price levels. These include refusing to supply retailers who sold the goods below the manufacturers' recommended retail *price and outlets such as* discount warehouse clubs, which typically sought to sell at between 15 and 20 per cent below recommended prices.

The commission *has* a year in which to decide if the manufacturers conspired to lift prices and to make its report to the Department of Trade and Industry. About 30 companies are on the list, including Amstrad, Bosch, Grundig, Electrolux, Hoover, Hotpoint, Whirlpool, Sony, Pioneer, Philips and Panasonic.

The *inquiry was announced* a week before the Consumers' Association is due to publish a report attacking manufacturers. The association said: "*This* inquiry cannot come a moment too soon for consumers. We are convinced that there is price-fixing. Manufacturers are boosting their prices to keep profits high and consumers are suffering as a result."

Leading manufacturers were quick to dismiss any suggestion that they had engaged in keeping up prices. Sony, *the Japanese group* that sells the most brown goods in the country, said that Britain was a "very competitive market". Whirlpool, the American firm, rejected all suggestions of price-fixing.

The Office of Fair Trading said its inquiry began after it received complaints from consumers, who noted a uniformity of prices across Britain, and from certain retailers, who said that they had been refused goods if they planned to sell them below the manufacturers' recommended prices.

The office will not reveal the list of retailers that complained but one is known to be Costco Wholesale Corpora*tion, now Price Costco* Europe, which opened an American-style warehouse-club in Thurrock, Essex, in late 1993 and another in north London last June.

The company, which sells most goods at substantial discounts on manufacturers' recommended prices, told investigators that it had been refused, at one time or another, virtually every type of electrical product.

However, the inquiry was attacked by Dixons Group, Britain's largest electrical re*tailer which owns* the Currys chains.

John Clare, chief executive, said: "This is a total waste of public money. The electrical *retailing industry is more* competitive and has lower margins than many other areas in retailing. There are people going bust left right and centre."

Rumbelows recently closed down and many of the regional electricity companies have pulled out. Comet, the Kingfisher subsidiary, made losses last year.

Pennington, page 25

JUSTIN SLEE

Shirley Bradshaw, grocery finance officer at Asda headquarters in Leeds, shows her office to her daughters

400,000 daughters get taste of work

By Kathryn Knight

MORE than 400,000 girls spent yesterday in workplaces as diverse as the House of Commons, Gatwick Airport and building sites in the second year of the "Take Our Daughters to Work" initiative.

Guests at the Four Seasons Hotel in Park Lane, London, were greeted by Cassandra Harvey, 12, and Alison Wil*liams, 14: both in full braided door*women's uniform. John Stauss, the hotel manager, whose daughter Emma, 11, was accompanying him on his managerial duties, said that girls were working in departments all over the hotel, from engineering to the flower room.

At Gatwick girls worked in *firefighting, engineering and marketing* jobs, while others spent the day on a construction site in Enfield, north London, accompanying pest-control workers in South Wales and climbing *telegraph poles in Southampton*.

At the Asda headquarters in Leeds, dozens of girls joined their fathers, mothers, aunts and brothers. Sandy Llewelyn, 14, fresh out of a board meeting with senior directors, said: "If I hadn't come here and had a look round all the departments I wouldn't have realised *there were so many options available*."

Raina Sheridam, project manager of the initiative, said: "We hope to encourage girls to think more broadly about their choice of career opportunities *and try something for a day that they* may not have previously considered."

Aitken sues over World in Action

By Nicholas Wood, chief political correspondent

JONATHAN AITKEN stepped up his self-proclaimed *crusade against* "*twisted* journalism" yesterday by announcing that he was suing Granada Television.

Carrying out his threat of 17 *days ago, the Chief Secretary* to the Treasury issued a writ for defamation against the television company over a *World in Action* report on April 10 on *his* alleged *links* with Arab businessmen.

That morning *The Guardian* had published an account of the allegations to be made in the programme. Mr Aitken responded by taking legal action against the newspaper and threatening Granada with a writ if it screened the film. The company went ahead after *amending* the programme to include excerpts from Mr Aitken's press conference in which he issued a detailed denial of the "*wicked lies*" *about him*.

A Granada Television spokesman said last night: "We stand by the programme and this action will be vigorously contested."

A separate action against *The Independent* over its reports of his boardroom links as a backbencher with a company that allegedly broke an arms embargo was looking less likely *last night*. It is believed that Mr Aitken intends to concentrate his legal efforts on the inter-related claims about his longstanding *Arab business interests*.

Aitken: media campaign

He is said to believe that a court victory on this front will vindicate him more widely. It is understood that Mr Aitken rejected the option of naming *journalists in his latest writ*. The writ against *The Guardian* named the newspaper, Peter Preston, its Editor-in-Chief, and David Pallister, the *reporter who wrote the story*. Mr Pallister's name appeared on the programme credits.

After the resignations of a series of government members *because* of media disclosures about their private lives and financial dealings, Mr Aitken has said that he sees his legal action as part of the "greater public interest" of defending honourable institu*tions and individuals against* abuses of media power.

Government agencies warned over sales

Government departments and agencies were told yesterday to be more careful in property dealing after a former hospital was sold for almost £5 million less than its estimated value. The 2.5-acre site at Hampstead, northwest London, was eventually sold by the Medical Research *Council for £3.67 million — £4.73 million less than* expected. It had hoped to sell the buildings on the old Mount Vernon Hospital site, which were mostly used as laboratories, for £8.4 million. At one point the council decided not to go ahead with a £6.5 million offer.

A report by the *National Audit Office into the sale of the* site — bordered on one side by some of Britain's most expensive houses — said there were important lessons to learn. The report said financial appraisals should be conducted with due regard to expected cash flows, rather *than maximum flows. In drawing up contracts, there should* be fixed-end dates, and consideration should be given to requiring the purchaser to produce a bond for payments.

RUC squads to merge

The Royal Ulster Constabulary is expected to merge its anti-racketeering and serious crime squads to tackle non-terrorist crimes, especially those involving drugs, in the wake of the IRA and loyalist ceasefires. Supplies of cannabis, LSD and Ecstasy have risen sharply and the Northern Ireland Office says loyalist paramilitaries are heavily involved.

Gas bill cut promised

Domestic gas users have been promised a 10 per cent cut in their bills by the Prime Minister. John Major urged Labour to recognise the success of privatisation and said: "In gas, after the passage of the Gas Bill, the benefits of competition and choice will be extended to every single domestic consumer of gas in the country."

IRA acquittal stands

The federal supreme court in Germany upheld the acquittal of three suspected IRA terrorists accused of murdering a British Army officer and bombing a barracks. The judges said that despite "weighty circumstantial evidence" against Paul Hughes, 30, Donna Maguire, 27, and Sean Hick, 33, they rejected the appeal from the federal prosecutor.

Child-minder cleared

A child-minder who had been succesfully sued for causing brain damage was yesterday cleared of all criminal charges *on the direction of a judge at Isleworth* Crown Court, west London. Christine Walton, 36, of Ashford, Middlesex, had denied grievous bodily harm and child cruelty in respect of two babies. The prosecution said it could offer no evidence.

PC put back on beat

PC Richard King, the police marksman cleared of attacking a youth who threatened to throw his baby off a train, is to appeal against a decision returning him to beat patrol. PC King, 30, has been transferred by the City of London force *after he was cleared of assault on appeal. His wife Tina said*: "He didn't expect to be turned on like this."

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Camelot chief quits due to ill health

By Jon Ashworth

SIR RON DEARING has resigned as chairman of Camelot Group, the National Lottery operator, due to ill health.

Sir Ron, 64, former chairman of the Post Office, will continue to work as an adviser to the Department for Education. He is replaced at Camelot by Sir George Russell, 59, chairman of the Independent Television Commission, who has had a distinguished career in industry.

Camelot said that health problems had forced Sir Ron to reduce his work commitments during the past year. He has stepped down from *various boards*.

Two years ago John Patten, as Education Secretary, appointed Sir Ron to review the National Curriculum; he is now chairman of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority. This month, Mr Patten's successor, Gillian Shephard, *announced that Sir* Ron was to review qualifications for 16 to 19-year-olds. Sir Ron said he saw *no* problems in completing the report.

Sir Ron said: "*Having seen* through the successful launch of both the National Lottery game and the new Instants game, the time is right for me *to go. I am sure that my* successor will relish the challenges that lie ahead."

Camelot is facing criticism over its Instants lottery game, *and its use of lottery* funds. Camelot said sales of its Instants game had not been affected by allegations of "fixing" by retailers.

Writers condemn Gowrie's new role

By Dalya Alberge, arts correspondent

LEADING British writers are angry that the Earl of Gowrie, the Arts Council chairman, has removed the author Michael Holroyd *as chairman of* the council's Literature Advisory Panel and assumed the role himself.

Lady Antonia Fraser, A.S. *Byatt and Tom Stoppard* are among critics claiming there is a strong potential for a conflict of interest. In a letter to *The Times*, they say: "We feel anxious that his other responsibilities may not allow him the necessary time to be as readily accessible to writers as his predecessors."

They express surprise that the term of office for Mr Holroyd ended after only three years: it was assumed that he would remain in the post for four years, as did his predecessor, P.D. James.

They ask Lord Gowrie to reassure them that "this sur*prisingly* abrupt change does not in any way augur ill for literature".

Lord Gowrie said: "I am seeking to persuade the Secretary of State for National Heritage to appoint an additional member of council, so that a practitioner may chair the literature panel and join the council."

He said that he was left with *little choice when the Heritage* Department refused to have 17 rather than 16 members on the council: "This is not my doing. I disapprove of me being literature *chairman*."

Letters, page 19

Spycatcher author Wright dies

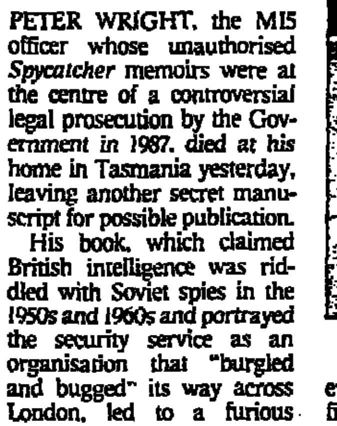
By Michael Evans
Defence correspondent

PETER WRIGHT, the MI5 officer whose unauthorised *Spycatcher* memoirs were at the centre of a controversial legal prosecution by the Gov*ernment in 1987*, died *at his* home in Tasmania yesterday, leaving another secret manuscript for possible publication.

His book, which claimed British intelligence was riddled with Soviet spies in the *1950s and 1960s and* portrayed the security service as an organisation that "burgled and bugged" its way across London, led to a furious warning from the Government to other former MI5 and *MI6 officers to keep their* secrets to themselves. However, Mr Wright's revelations, first published in Australia, have been followed by other memoirs, written autobiographically or by authors relying on interviews with former members of the two agencies. After *Spycatcher*, Mr Wright wrote *The Encyclopaedia of Spying*, which received little publicity.

His third, unpublished work is a spy thriller based on real events, according to Peter Murray, a friend and executor of the former MI5 man's will. *Mr Murray said the* unpublished work revealed more about the alleged infiltration of the British establishment by influential people working as Soviet agents.

Mr Wright, a recluse who had *Alzheimer's disease* for a year before his death at 78, lived in a small farmhouse with his wife, Lois. He will be cremated next week.



Wright: leaves new book

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POP TODAY

Take That,
Kingmaker,
Aaron Nevill
and Matthew Sweet
page 35

The pop music page appears every Friday
PLUS
the Valerie Grove interview,
Bernard Levin,
Caitlin Moran,
Lynne Truss,
Philip Howard and the Infotech pages

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأول

Bogus companies set up to verify documents

Conmen sold fake titles to social-climbing Americans

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

RICH Americans were swindled out of about £53,000 for titles they believed would bring them close to royalty.

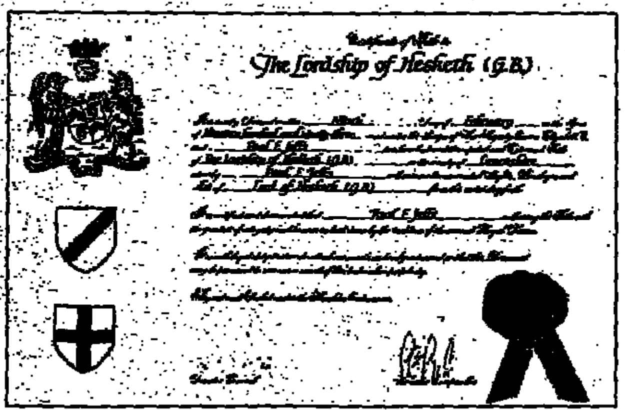
Stefanos Kollakis and Martin Lewis, both 26, flew across the world on Concorde selling bogus entrées to the British aristocracy, a court was told yesterday.

Jeffrey Schnepper, a New York attorney, believed that by buying the title Lord of Bradley and the Moors he was entitled to travel in the 18th carriage in Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's birthday celebration procession. Other extravagant rights he hoped to obtain included priority on "Her Majesty the Queen's social list".

According documentation written by the two men, buyers would have the right to be addressed as Lord, their wives as Lady and children as Right Honourable. They would acquire the right to use a coat of arms on stationery. The titles could be passed to their heirs, buyers were told.

The titles came with certificates handwritten by a calligrapher on special paper sealed with red wax and purportedly signed by Lord Denning, a former Master of the Rolls. The buyers were assured the titles could be sold at a profit.

Many of the titles were genuine, selected from 10,000 listed in the Domesday Book.



The Lordship of Hesketh (G.B.)

One of the fake handwritten certificates of title

The conmen revived the ancient practice of subinfeudation — the creation of titles by splitting existing lordships — which was outlawed by the second Statute of Westminster of 1290.

The biggest losers were Ronald and Peggy Berle, of Clearwater Beach, Florida, who paid £39,000 for three titles and a coat of arms. They wanted them to provide financial security for their daughter, who had Down's syndrome.

"This is an unusual case," Stephen Waine, for the prosecution, told Southwark Crown Court in southeast London. "It worked on the basis that there are in England titles that can be bought and sold and outside England there are people who do not have titles but have the money to pay for them."

Kollakis is the nephew of Lou Kollakis, a British shipping magnate whose wealth has been estimated at £250 million. He met Lewis at Buckingham University, a private university with fees of more than £8,500 a year, where Kollakis read business studies and Lewis was studying history.

The defendants created a series of bogus organisations which any potential customers could contact to check the authenticity of their purchase. The first was Stamford Perry and Fitzgerald, supposedly established in 1835, dealing in overseas land registry. Notepaper bore coats of arms and the mottos *Virtue is the Way* and *Always the Way* in Latin.

"It would appear that the defendants came to know of these titles through studying auction details of genuine titles," Mr Waine said. "There is a Manorial Society that sells genuine and properly proved titles."

Kollakis and Lewis created the Institute of Heraldic Affairs and a company of solicitors to write glowing references stating that everything was above board. Later they founded the National Office of Heraldry.

The titles were advertised for sale in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Economist* and in the main English-language magazine of the United Arab Emirates.

The pair opened private bank accounts in Switzerland and Vienna, using false passports as identification. They entertained clients to lavish meals at top American hotels before handing over documents. "On one occasion a sword was handed over as a sort of indication of the sturdy background of the matter," Mr Waine said.

David Rosow, 53, a golf-course tycoon of Fairfield, Connecticut, last night admitted that he had been a victim of the conmen, buying the Lordship of Godington, Oxfordshire, as a birthday present for his wife Jeanne.

"My wife has always been referred to by her closest friends as Lady Jeanne," Mr Rosow said. "It's very difficult to find gifts for your wife — jewels and things like that. I decided to do something special for her birthday and officially make her a lady." Mr Rosow rumbled the fraud before presenting the title document to his wife. "It has been an embarrassment," he said. He has since discovered that the real lordship of Godington was vacant and paid about £7,000 to acquire the title. He hopes to visit his seat during Cowes Week.

Kollakis, left, and Lewis leaving court yesterday after admitting forgery

Kollakis, of Ealing, west London, is of previous good character. Lewis, unemployed, of Carshalton Beeches, southeast London, was jailed in 1993 for deception in a fraud selling bogus passports.

Both men pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit forgery but denied a second similar charge which the judge ordered to lie on file.

Judge Geoffrey Levy, QC, adjourned sentence until May 19 for reports. Both defendants were granted bail.

Financial adviser stole to pay debts

A FINANCIAL adviser with the Midland Bank diverted £49,000 from a millionairess's account to pay for his wife's expensive tastes.

Martin Greaves persuaded Lady Ruth Dawson, 72, to sign cheques that he paid into his own account, York Crown Court was told. Greaves, 29, who worked at the bank's branch in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, was jailed for two years after admitting stealing the money between October 1993 and August last year.

Jonathan Sandiford, for the defence, said that at the time Greaves was married to the daughter of a Lloyds Bank regional director. "That meant she had grown up with expensive and extravagant tastes and a liking for spending money faster than her husband could earn it."

He said the couple, now divorced, ran up debts of about £25,000 and each time he cut up credit cards his wife acquired new ones.

James Hargan, for the prosecution, said Greaves, now living in Leicester, told Lady Dawson to put money into a high interest savings account. But the four cheques she signed for £49,000 already had Greaves's building society number on them. A bank check found him out and police were contacted.

After the hearing, Lady Dawson, of Harrogate, said: "I trusted the nice young man and the bank too ... I still have an account with the Midland."

Aldington case man is jailed for repeating libel

BY RICHARD DUCE

NIGEL WATTS, a co-defendant in the Lord Aldington libel case, was jailed for 18 months yesterday for repeating claims that the former deputy chairman of the Conservative Party was a war criminal.

Mr Watts, 56, was led away by High Court tipstaffs to start his sentence at Pentonville prison after Mr Justice Morland said he had an "obsessive intention" to continue his campaign against Lord Aldington. As he was taken from the court Mr Watts said: "This is British justice?"

David Price, the solicitor for Watts, of Tunbridge Wells, Kent, said an appeal was planned against the sentence imposed for breaching an injunction not to repeat the libel.

In 1989, Watts and the historian Count Nikolai Tolstoy were ordered to pay Lord Aldington £1.5 million for publishing a leaflet that accused him of sending men to certain death at the end of the Second World War. It was claimed that then, as Brigadier Toby Low serving in Austria, he was involved in the repatriation of Cossacks, knowing they faced death or torture in Stalin's Soviet Union.

The judge said that Watts, an artist and property developer, had repeated the libel in a pamphlet last January and was "undoubtedly" in breach of an injunction imposed at the end of the 1989 trial.

Copies of the pamphlet were sent to Lord Aldington, his son-in-law Hugh Roberts, his solicitors Allen and Overy, Sir Edward Heath and Lord Boardman. The judge said that the pamphlet referred to "the most perfidious and treacherous war criminal in Europe" and also mentioned a "corrupt judiciary".

Lord Aldington, 80, of Aldington, near Ashford, Kent, was not in court yesterday. His barrister Charles Gray, QC, said: "It would seem clear that Mr Watts is intent on inflicting enormous distress and anguish on Lord Aldington and his family with repetition of this libel which the jury found wholly unfounded."

Lord Aldington has still to receive a penny of the libel award after both Watts and Count Tolstoy were declared bankrupt. Watts's home is owned by his wife and is outside any claim for damages by Lord Aldington.

Watts: given 18-month prison sentence

Mr Gray said that, with Watts claiming to have no money, he should be the subject of a "drastic" sentence.

The judge dismissed Watts's argument that he was not bound by the injunction because it had been terminated by agreement in March 1991. He said the appropriate sentence in the light of the gravity of the breach and the background of the case was 18 months.

Lord Aldington said last night: "I feel a great sense of relief but I am so sad that a man should feel like that and therefore have to suffer. I do think it's awful that he should have felt as he obviously did but I do feel my family and I are entitled to some relief sometime."

The campaign by Watts against Lord Aldington began in the 1970s when the peer was chairman of the Sun Alliance. The company refused to pay out on an accident policy after his brother-in-law died in a fall. The firm said he had failed to notify them of his alcohol dependency.

His grievance against Lord Aldington led him to seek information about the peer's past and Count Tolstoy replied. In 1987 Watts published 10,000 pamplets in which he made the claims of war crimes.

Murder of Aids case lover denied

A MAN who thought his former lover had given him Aids murdered her after lying in wait outside her home, a court was told yesterday. Derrick Stanmore, 37, stabbed Roxanne Sandford 16 times after he found a form registering her for an HIV test.

Christopher Leigh, QC, for the prosecution, told the court that Mr Stanmore had been drinking in several pubs in Southampton before the attack on Miss Sandford, 28, a mother of four.

Mr Stanmore, who denies murder, had lived with Miss Sandford in Southampton until three weeks before she was killed. At the end of September he found a form showing that she had an appointment for an HIV test and the couple split up. Mr Leigh said: "This appears to have been the last straw in their relationship. But Roxanne had not been for the test."

Lee Dennett, a neighbour who saw the attack, said: "A woman was lying over a car and a man was holding her down. He was saying she had given him Aids and that he wanted to kill her."

The case was adjourned until today.

Condemned pit bull given new reprieve

BY LUCY BERRINGTON

A PIT BULL terrier that has been due to be put down for three years, was granted another stay of execution yesterday. The seven-year-old bitch, a family pet with no history of aggression, was granted a two-month reprieve in police kennels pending a full trial to decide its fate.

Judge Butter, granted an injunction to Dianne Fanneran, Dempsey's owner, at Inner London County Court to prevent it being put down by police. Lawyers had argued that the magistrates who issued a destruction order in 1992 did not empower the police to seize the dog or execute the order.

Sandy Canavan, counsel for Mrs Fanneran, of Hanwell, west London, told the court: "It is like giving somebody a gun to shoot somebody and not providing the bullets. If the police are holding the dog unlawfully they have no powers to destroy it."

Judge Butter ruled that the evidence of Inspector Colin Nursey, who claimed that Ealing magistrates had given police power to seize the dog, was unreliable. No such order was mentioned in court records. He added, however: "The plaintiff's hopes have been raised and dashed over the years. I would not wish her to build up false hopes because of my decision today."

Mark Bryant-Heron, representing Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, had told the court that the issue of whether the dog had been unlawfully detained could be resolved later by financial damages.

Ms Canavan, who is defending for free after Mrs Fanneran was denied legal aid, said: "If the case was about the *Mona Lisa* and somebody was threatening to set fire to it, you wouldn't say the proper remedy is damages. You would prevent it being destroyed."

The dog, which has been the subject of three appeals, has been on "death row" since police saw it without a muzzle being walked by a family friend in April 1992. The muzzle had been removed because the dog was being sick. Animal campaigners said the Government has spent millions of pounds seeking the destruction of animals held under the Dangerous Dogs Act.

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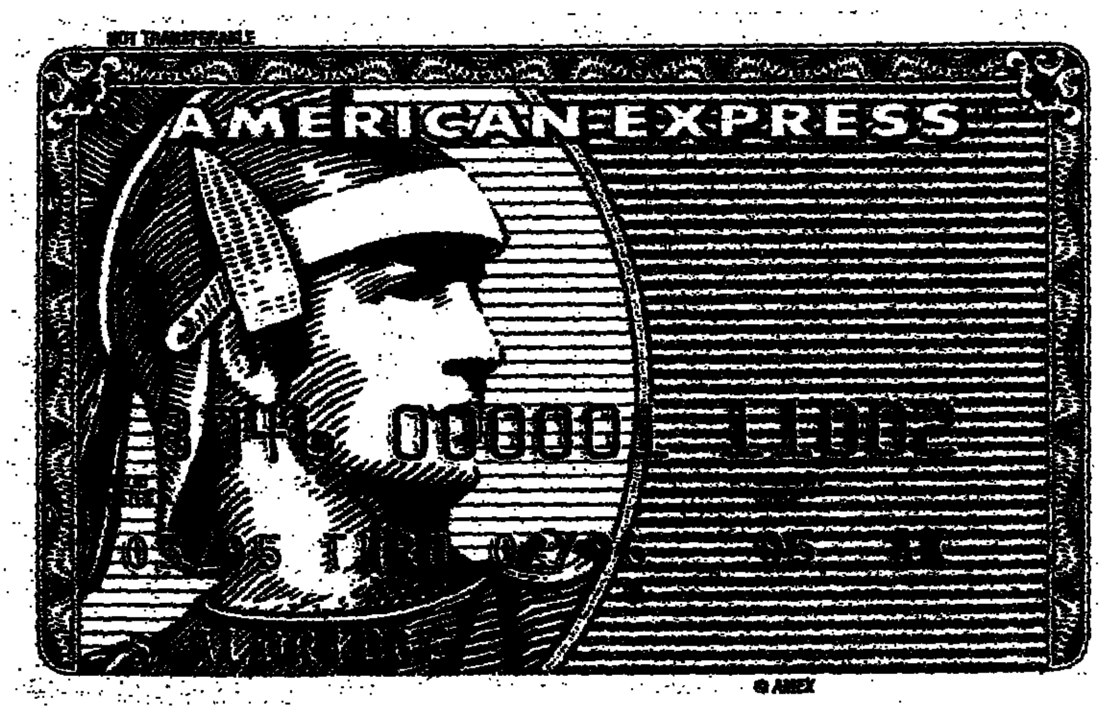

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Minimum 12 months' reflection proposed to test whether a marriage has genuinely broken down

White Paper aims to take acrimony out of divorce

By Frances Gibb
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

PROPOSALS for new divorce laws are aimed at reducing the bitterness, hostility and sense of injustice that so often surrounds breakdown of marriage, the Lord Chancellor said yesterday. Lord Mackay of Clashfern, unveiling a much-heralded White Paper, said he wished to remove the adversarial nature of the present laws.

To that end, the proposals include the end of the present "quickie" divorce system in England and Wales and a new no-fault divorce procedure where mediators rather than lawyers play a central role. Divorce will be available after a 12-month waiting period for reflection and only after the couple have made arrangements for children and property.

A spouse will no longer "sue" for divorce but will start the divorce process by attending an information session with a panel of professionals, probably with other divorcing couples. Lord Mackay said couples would be encouraged to sort out differences jointly, with the minimum of acrimony, and using — where appropriate — the services of trained mediators.

He emphasised yesterday that the proposals would not make divorce easier, although "at first sight this might seem to be the case". For most people, it would be harder. However, by removing the incentives in the present law to allege fault, it was hoped to reduce conflict and the harm and distress caused to children.

One hundred and fifty thousand couples divorce each year, and 75 per cent of them opt for the "quickie" divorce, which enables them to obtain a decree within six months by alleging fault (adultery or unreasonable behaviour). The remainder divorce on the basis of separation, which takes two years (with consent) or five (without). "Proof of fault is therefore not a restraining factor — quite the opposite," Lord Mackay said.

Under the White Paper proposals, all couples will have to wait at least one year. "It is important that there is an adequate period of time to test whether the marriage has genuinely broken down, and that couples look to the responsibilities they undertook when they married," the Lord Chancellor said. The aims of the minimum waiting period were to provide time for reflection and for the couple to make arrangements for children and property.

In some cases divorce would take longer than one year. The White Paper says: "The divorce process will be delayed because arrangements for children, property and finance have not been made."

Lord Mackay said: "Feelings of hurt, anger, hostility and resentment are almost inevitable with divorce, and no law or procedure can make divorce a pleasant process. What I believe, however, is that it is possible for the law and procedures to make matters worse, particularly for children. I do not believe that this is right."

The divorce rate in England and Wales is the highest in Europe and the White Paper says: "The social, economic and emotional costs of divorce are considerable. Apart from the grief to the couple there is clear evidence that children often suffer greatly as a result of the breakdown of their parents' marriage."

The proposals for reform — the biggest upheaval since the present law was enacted in 1969 — are the culmination of several years' work and consultation that began with a Law Commission discussion paper in 1988.

Before 1969, the law required proof of a "matrimonial offence" (adultery, cruelty or desertion of three years). Two reports — one in 1966 by a group appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury and a second by the Law Commission — paved the way for the Divorce Reform Act of 1969 that introduced irretrievable breakdown of marriage as the sole ground for divorce.

The "quickie" procedure, which is handled on paper, was introduced in 1973. It usually takes six months but can take as little as three or four.

Under the new proposals, a pre-condition to filing a statement of marital breakdown that will start the divorce process is the compulsory information interview. The spouse initiating the divorce must attend by appointment a free information session as the first port-of-call.

The spouse who is not initiating the divorce will not be obliged to attend a session unless he or she wishes to. But if he or she wants to comment on the divorce statement, or make his or her own application in respect of children or property, attendance at an information interview will be compulsory.

"This will ensure that both parties are well-informed about the nature of divorce, its effects on children, and the options available for making arrangements," the White Paper says.

A nationwide network of information panels will be set up, building on the existing services and skills of professionals in the advice and mediation services. The likely model is that in use in Australia and some American states, where a number of couples meet for an information session, rather than an individual interview. The White Paper says the idea is not group therapy, rather to give information in the most expedient and cost-effective way.

Couples will be informed, with written packs or videos, as well as orally, of the services available to them, including mediation and marriage guidance and counselling. They will be given information on the emotional, financial and legal aspects of separation and divorce. "This will result in those who go through divorce having better information about the process from the beginning," the White Paper says.

A divorce will not be granted for 12 months. In that time couples will have to decide living arrangements; whether any home is to be sold or tenancy transferred; contact and living arrangements for children; and how the furniture and other posessions are to be split.

The White Paper says this period "may represent a more potent encouragement to some couples to remain together than the present system, which provides an almost automatic passport to divorce, with every encouragement to dwell on the past and ignore the future."

As to grounds for divorce, the White paper says "the abolition of fault will remove the stigma of being branded the guilty party and in turn reduce acrimony.

The proposals will result in a "harder divorce process for everyone in the sense that they will be required to spend time reflecting on whether their marriage can be saved and, if not, to face up to the consequences of their actions and make arrangements to meet their responsibilities before a divorce is granted." The Government has concluded that the waiting period should be the same for all, whether they have children or not. A longer period was rejected as more likely to harm children and discriminate against those with children "locked in unhappy marriages".

The main purpose of the period is to demonstrate that the marriage has irretrievably broken down. The Government believes a "minimum absolute period" necessary to establish this with certainty. Any shortening might also allow quick divorces by the back door and play into the hands of a "spiteful or malicious spouse" who might use it as a bargaining chip.

Mediation will not be compulsory but will be offered to every couple. If both parties are not willing to give it a try, the White Paper says, it is unlikely to be successful.

People will be eligible for publicly funded mediation on the same criteria as exist for legal aid. The Legal Aid Board is to contract out the provision of mediation services, subject to strict quality controls, in the way that legal aid work is to be contracted out to franchised law firms. Where a person receiving publicly funded mediation is thought to be behaving unreasonably, the White Paper proposes a power for it to be withdrawn.

The Government is considering extending the requirement to attend an information session to proceedings in other cases such as disputes about residence and contact with children.

With an increased role for trained mediators, the White Paper sees a reduced role for lawyers: the net spending on legal aid in family matters was £332 million in 1993-94, compared with £272.4 million in 1992-93, and is rising.

Legal aid will still be available for advice before and at the time of starting divorce proceedings, and for help at the end of mediation when divorcing couples need to convert their agreement into a legally-binding court order.

The Government accepts that state funding should be available for "limited types of legal advice and assistance" as part of the mediation process, but it does not "envisage allowing either uncontrolled access to lawyer representation, as oppposed to specific advice on specific issues, throughout the mediation process". With suitable quality controls on mediation in place, it will not be necessary for lawyers to "shadow" mediation or, except in rare cases, to "unpick mediated agreements". Lawyers will also be under a duty to inform their clients about mediation.

☐ *Looking to the Future: Mediation and the Ground for Divorce — the Government's Proposals*; (Stationery Office, £13.40)

Mackay proposals, page 1

THE MAIN POINTS

- ☐ **Divorce available after 12 months for reflection.**
- ☐ **Arrangements for children and finance to be settled before divorce granted (but courts to have power to grant divorce order in the interests of the children, even without arrangements being settled).**
- ☐ **Compulsory interview for spouse initiating divorce.**
- ☐ **Abolition of present need to allege fault (adultery or *unreasonable behaviour*) to obtain quick divorce.**
- ☐ **Family mediation services to be available to all as part of the divorce service.**
- ☐ **Better protection against domestic violence during 12-month reflection period.**
- ☐ **State funding [legal aid] for mediation under system of block contracts to local mediation services.**
- ☐ ***Legal aid limited to specific legal advice before or after mediation and not for "arm's-length negotiations" throughout.***
- ☐ **Single ground for divorce of "irretrievable breakdown of marriage".**
- ☐ ***Court to have discretion to refuse divorce if it would cause "grave financial or other hardship".***

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Sarah Laughton, left, and Wendy Pritchard face a couple seeking help at the Cambridge divorce centre, which has seven mediators

'The key is a fair choice for each partner'

By Kathryn Knight

THE MEDIATORS

THE sign at the top of the stairs that greets couples seeking divorce mediation at the National Family and *Divorce Centre in Cambridge says:* "Marriages end but parenting is for ever."

That statement is the focus for the centre's seven trained mediators, who believe that family breakdowns can be *resolved away from the hothouse of* the courtroom to secure the best interests of parents and children. The centre, one of a network of 62 National Family Mediation services nationwide, has charitable status and charges couples for each 90-minute session according to income.

Mediators such as Wendy Pritchard and Sarah Laughton encourage couples to discuss arrangements over property and maintenance in sessions aimed at deflecting attention away from fault and blame towards facing the future positively.

Couples are encouraged to consult lawyers but mediators attempt to take away from legal offices some of the pressure of drawing up detailed divorce plans.

"Mediation doesn't do away with the need for lawyers but it eliminates *the need for them to be involved in the* nitty-gritty, which can often become acrimonious," Mrs Pritchard said. *"We advise each partner to engage a* lawyer for consultation along the way, so at the end of the process here they *don't go away with proposals that* will then be unpicked by their solicitor."

Most couples who visit the centre *have made the decision to separate* and want to work through financial or parenting issues as amicably as possible. Some couples are occasionally referred to Relate or other marriage guidance agencies if there is a potential for reconciliation, but most require practical help.

"We're not here to discuss where the marriage went wrong. We're here to look to the future and find how best to deal with the facts of the separation," Ms Laughton says. Emphasis is placed on individual choice and negotiation.

"The key thing is for each partner to feel they have been given a fair choice. They are then much more willing to co-operate, and this can only be beneficial for them and the children."

Some couples continue to use mediation after divorce. Jackie Toase (formerly Stroud), 41, and Colin *Stroud, 43, from Cambridgeshire,* divorced in July 1993 after 18 months of mediation at the centre in Cam*bridge, but have recently revisited the* centre to renegotiate access to their three children aged seven, nine, and *11. The couple first consulted media*tors when it became clear that *their marriage* had irretrievably broken down. Both were highly concerned about the effect of divorce on the children. "I went hoping that the centre could help us to do the best for the children," Miss Toase said. "We were both in emotional turmoil and needed external advice to help us to see without clutter." Mr Stroud said: "We had decided to separate, the issue was how best to do it."

Over a series of meetings, the couple came to what at the time was a reasonable financial and access arrangement. Both agree that removing any emphasis on blame meant they could concentrate on how best to reconcile their own needs and those of *the children* for the future. Both are also adamant that the cost of mediation — for them about £40 a session — paled into insignificance compared to the legal fees it often replaced. "Mediation encourages people to think of the *best solutions to their own problems* in a relaxed environment," Mr Stroud said.

"When all the hurting is going on, you can't think." For Miss Toase, mediation could quite easily have been the only *port of call.* "Looking back, I actually feel we could have ruled out a solicitor, if that is possible, *had we started our mediation slightly* earlier," she said.

☐ An estimated 10,000 divorcing couples *a year are turning to mediation.* The 62 mediation services fall under the National Family Mediation group, and about 300 solicitor-members of the Solicitors' Family Law Association are trained mediators. The National Family Mediation group helped 9,000 couples last yeasr.

With mediation assuming a key role in divorce, it is likely that an Institute of Family Mediation will be formed.

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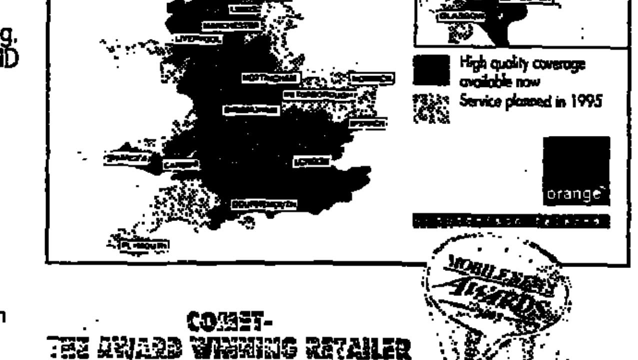

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THE TIMES

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Rethink over plan to charge grammar pupils for transport

By John O'Leary and Ben Preston

A PROPOSAL to deprive pupils at eight Essex grammar schools of free transport offered to comprehensive schools may be withdrawn after protests by thousands of parents and children.

Labour and Liberal councillors have been accused of a vindictive campaign against the grammar schools, which are regularly near the top of national examination league tables. Council leaders insist, however, that they are merely looking at cost-saving measures put forward by officials.

Parents would have to find up to £1,000 a year in travelling costs if plans to charge new grammar school entrants and sixth formers proceed next year. Only those for whom the grammar school is the nearest to home would continue to get the free bus passes issued to other pupils in the county. The proposal cannot be challenged on legal grounds because the service is discretionary. However, the Education Department said that education authorities should not discriminate against pupils simply because they attend grammar schools.

Simon Burns, Conservative MP for Chelmsford, a governor of one of the schools, said: "The Labour Party comes across as terribly reasonable but this shows that, when they are in power, they come with ideological baggage that they cannot hide."

Burns: "Labour cannot conceal its ideology"

Charging for transport to the four schools in the Southend area and two each in Chelmsford and Colchester is intended to save more than a fifth of the £7.3 million to be cut from the Essex education budget. However, the schools say that their separate funding arrangements after opting out mean that the county would save less than half the expected £1.6 million.

Albert Smulian, the Liberal councillor who chairs the education authority's transport panel, said he had asked officers to re-examine their figures. He told heads and governors of the schools this week that he would favour dropping the scheme if the savings were too low.

Mr Smulian said: "These options are entirely driven by finance and would never have been considered if the Government had funded the teachers' pay award. I would rather have seen the comprehensive system installed properly but, given that the grammar schools are there, we are not picking on them to destroy them." A council spokesman said that a decision would be taken next month, and councillors would consider the thousands of responses received on the issue.

The grammar schools believe that the transport proposals mark the start of a campaign to end selective education in Essex. Bernice McCabe, headmistress of Chelmsford County High School for Girls, said: "This is the thin end of the wedge, and a threat to the diversity of education that I thought all parties now supported."

In some of the schools, more than half of the pupils would be affected. Dr Aline Black, headmistress of Colchester County High School for Girls, said more than a third of the school's 680 pupils would not be able to afford their own transport costs. She highlighted the case of 50 pupils who made a 40-mile round trip each day from the Frinton area, who would face annual transport costs of at least £800.

Leading article, page 19

Fruit may beat hepatitis B

MEDICAL BRIEFING

IN BRITAIN, hepatitis B is mainly confined to a few high-risk groups, whereas in the Third World it is widespread and its later complications — chronic hepatitis, cirrhosis and liver cancer — make it one of the principal causes of death.

High-risk groups in Britain, such as doctors, homosexuals and prostitutes, or conversely someone born and bred in the Far East, should consider vaccination.

The current system of vaccination is labour intensive and expensive. However, there is hope that routine vaccination at an early age will become possible, not with a needle but by eating a banana.

Scientists working in Texas have been exploring the possibility of transplanting hepatitis B protein genes into bananas. The idea is that these genes, once incorporated into the fruit, are eaten by a vulnerable population and will stimulate their bodies to produce an antibody to the hepatitis virus. There is every chance that, given time, the scientists will succeed, for *Pulse* magazine reports that they have already been successful in transplanting the gene into potatoes. However, they did not realise that cooking would nullify their efforts.

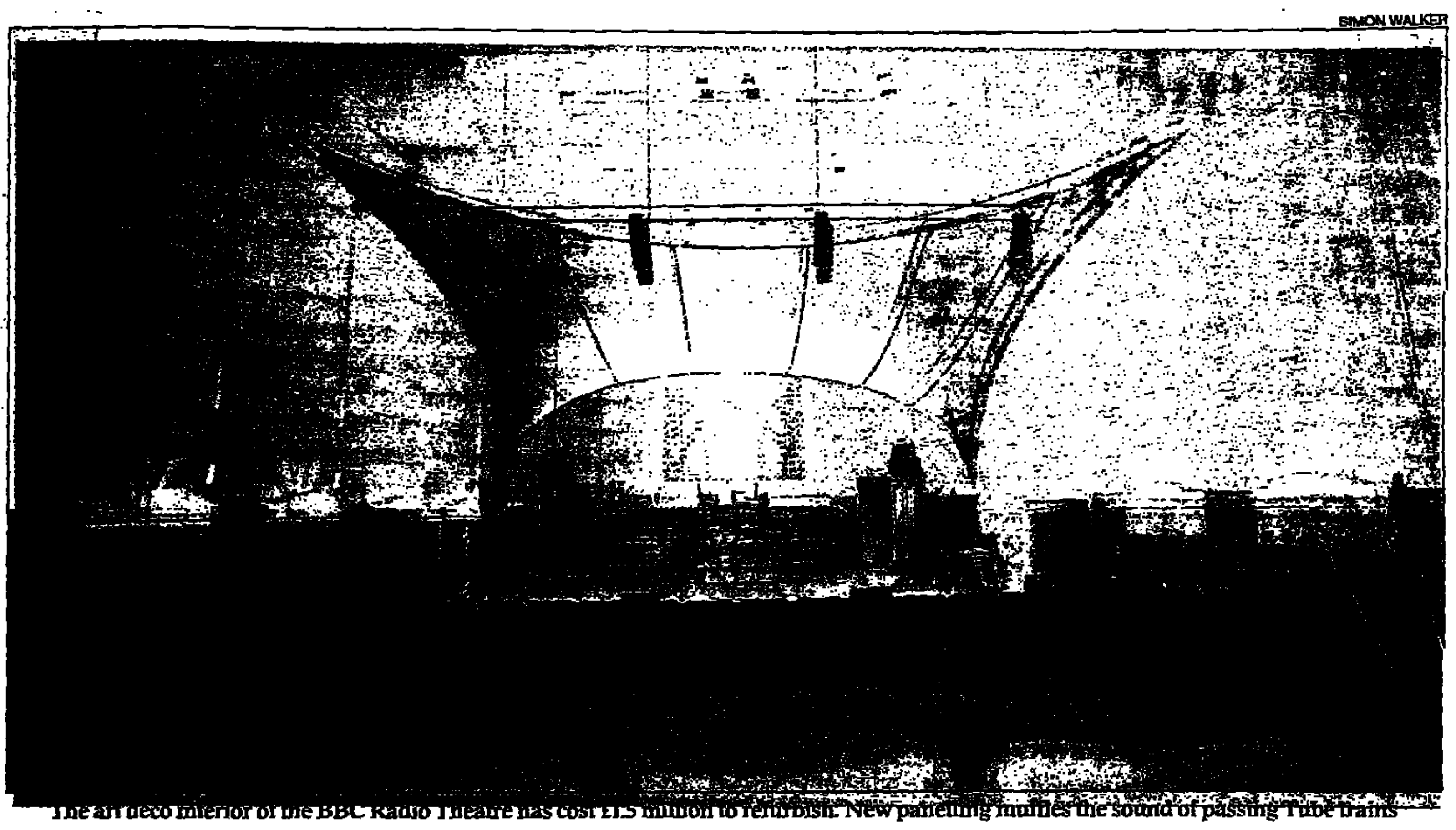
Injections against hepatitis B and A already exist. The Government has sponsored a campaign to encourage the high-risk groups to be vaccinated against hepatitis B. Others, particularly travellers, are well advised to have an injection of Havrix against hepatitis A.

The memory of the fulminant hepatitis that carried away Russell Harty so rapidly still haunts every doctor when it becomes apparent that symptoms lightly dismissed as gastric flu or traveller's diarrhoea are those of viral hepatitis. Hepatitis in its early stages is notoriously difficult to diagnose, but fortunately very few who catch it develop fulminant hepatitis. The syndrome is usually associated with hepatitis B but can complicate hepatitis A.

Immunisation against hepatitis A is recommended for everybody travelling outside northern and western Europe, and even for those who stay at home if they are not too certain of the standards of hygiene in the restaurants they frequent. It is always wise to give it to the hepatitis B high-risk groups. One dose of Havrix provides protection for a year; a second dose between six months and a year later should ensure immunity for ten years. The injection must always be into the muscles of the upper arm.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

SIMON WALKER


The art deco interior of the BBC Radio Theatre has cost £1.5 million to refurbish. New panelling muffles the sound of passing Tube trains

BBC's vintage organ salutes reopening of concert hall

By Alexandra Frean, Media Correspondent

THE BBC's refurbished radio theatre in Broadcasting House was officially opened by Liz Forgan, managing director of BBC Network Radio, last night to the accompaniment of music from the auditorium's original 1932 organ.

The organ, which has been played every night for the past 20 years by members of the BBC's Organ Society to prevent it deteriorating, has been overhauled as part of the theatre's £1.5 million refit.

The new interior also preserves the theatre's art deco design by G. Val Myers, including friezes by Gilbert Bayes. However, new panelling has been installed to help to dampen the sound of passing trains on the Bakerloo Underground line, which could once be heard in quieter recitals. The auditorium now seats 300 people on two levels and a cafe and lounge area have been added.

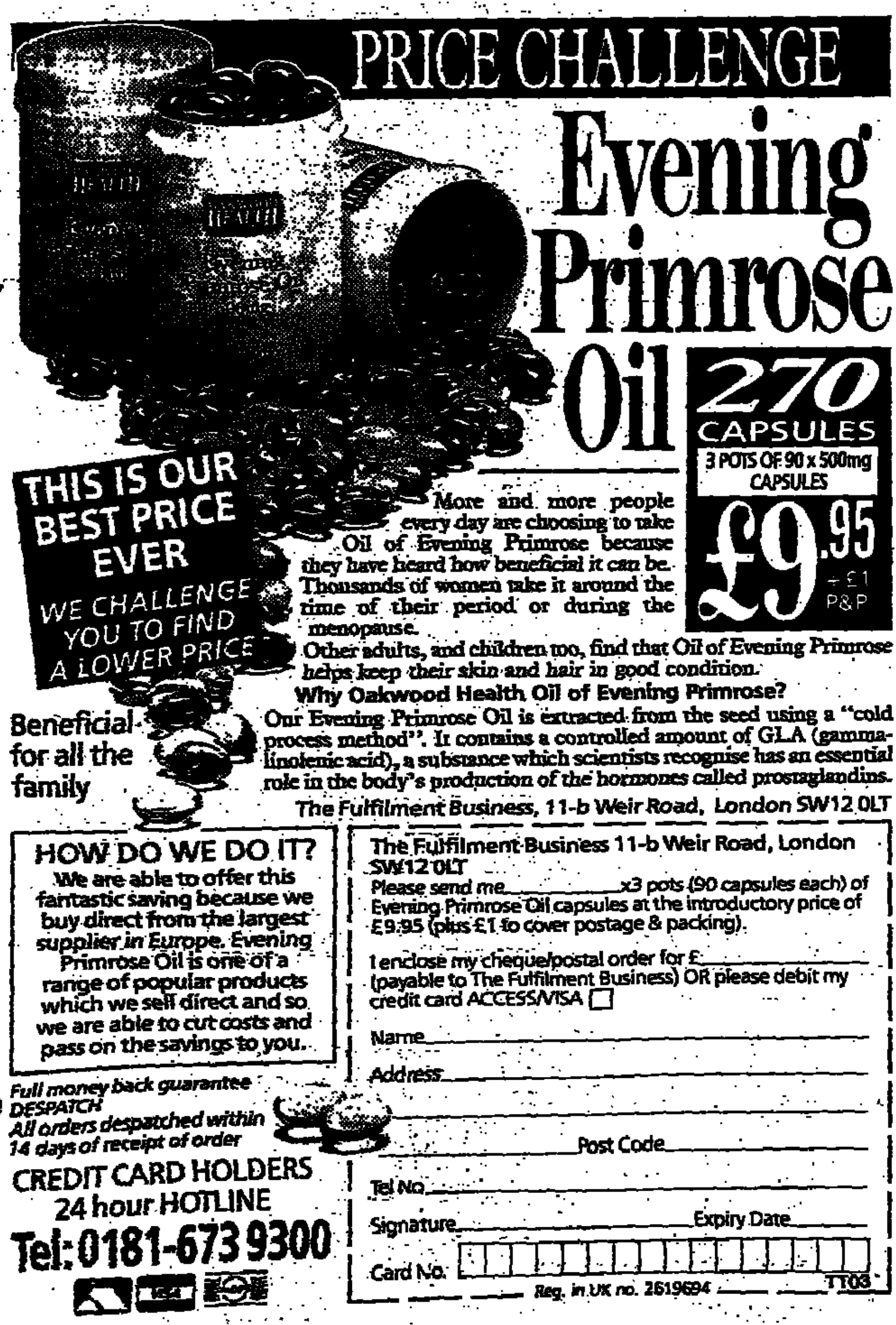
The BBC architect Jane Thornley was responsible for the refurbishment, in consultation with English Heritage. It marks the return of entertainment programmes to the heart of Broadcasting House after more than 50 years.

An edition of Radio 4's *The News Quiz*, chaired by Barry Took, was recorded there last night. Formerly known as the Concert Hall, it will become the base for shows including *The News Quiz*, *Just a Minute*, *I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue*, *The Masterson Inheritance* and *The News Huddlines*. It was used for the first time at the weekend for Radio 4's *Loose Ends*.

The Radio Theatre replaces the Paris Studio in Lower Regent Street, central London, which closed in February when the BBC's 50-year lease expired. Radio 3's lunchtime concerts are moving to the Wigmore Hall.

Radio, page 42

Roger Tucker plays the restored 1932 organ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It's Ephesus, Turkey, a centre of Roman civilisation. It is also where the Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, was built, where St. Paul gathered his converts and where the Virgin Mary spent her final days. All part of Turkey's 8,000 year old heritage, it makes you wonder why you ever thought of going anywhere else.

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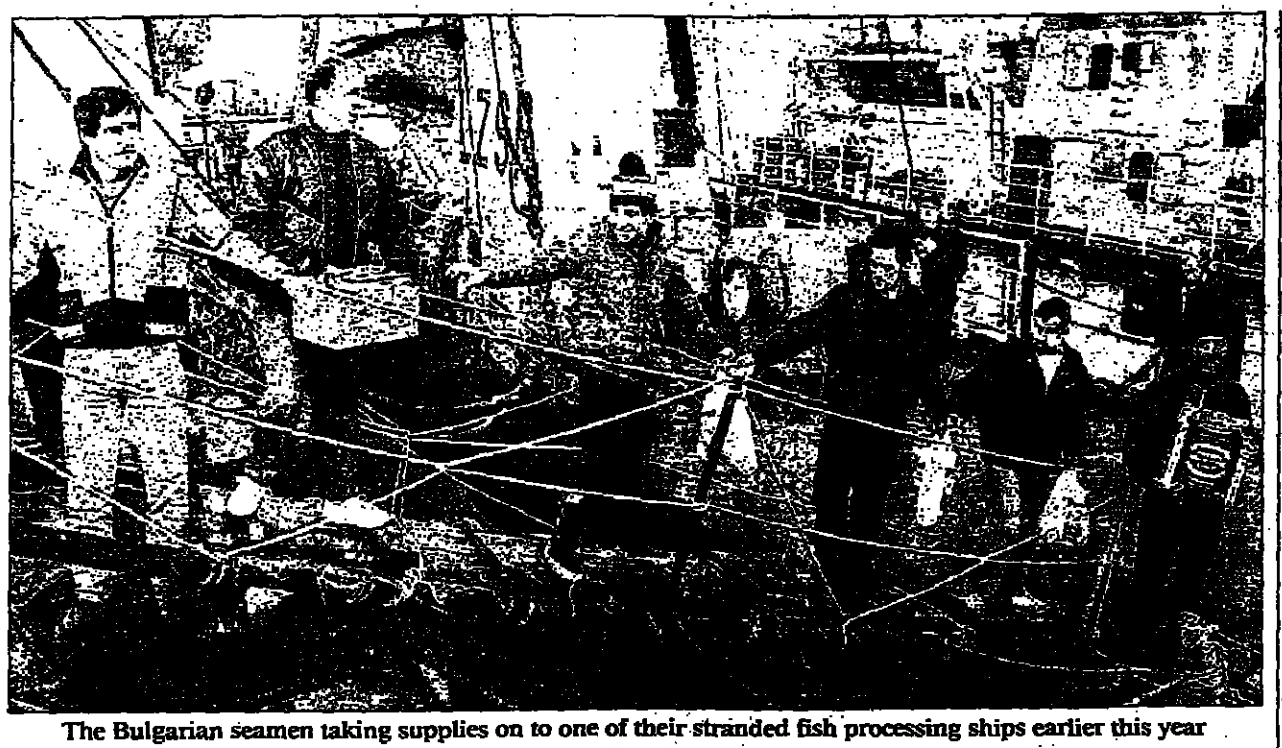
TURKEY

Abandoned seamen fly home to unknown fate

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent



The Bulgarian seamen taking supplies on to one of their stranded fish processing ships earlier this year

THE Bulgarian seamen who have been stranded in appalling conditions on a rusting hulk off Shetland flew home yesterday with some of the money owed to them.

The men had staged the first strike by Bulgarian workers in more than 50 years because they had not been paid by their Government. But Shetland islanders, who have become close friends of the men, expressed concern for their safety when they reach Bulgaria.

Three of the 26 Bulgarians are seeking political asylum in Britain because they are worried that they will be targets for gangsters if they return.

The Bulgarians arrived in Shetland on the fish processing factory ships six months ago. Many of the men had not been paid for three years and they were abandoned by the Bulgarian Government when their two vessels, *Aktinia* and *Rotalia* were arrested for non-payment of debt last year.

The conclusion of the three-month strike did not go smoothly. At 10am David Ash of Cory Bros, the ship's agent, walked up the rickety gangway with a haversack stuffed with dollar bills.

The money was due to be doled out in the *Rotalia*'s mess room with each man receiving about 43 per cent of his claim for backpay. But Hristo Dimitrov, the ship's doctor and a leading figure in the strike, counted the money and discovered that it was $30,000 short of the agreed $90,000.

Dr Dimitrov told Mr Ash that nobody would leave the ship until all the money had been paid. Mr Ash was forced to drive back into Lerwick to begin a frantic search for the $30,000.

Shortly after lunch he returned and, witnessed by Peter Hamilton of Shetland Trades Council on behalf of the International Transport Workers' Federation, each man's share was counted out. The Bulgarians then left the vermin-infested hulk of the *Rotalia* for the last time.

The Bulgarians had been forced to scavage on rubbish tips and had run out of fresh food and water before the Shetlanders learnt of their plight.

Ian Munro, superintendent of the Fishermen's Mission at Lerwick, said he feared for the men's safety in Bulgaria despite reassurances by the Bulgarian consul-general in London that the men would not be persecuted. He has given them addresses in Shetland to write to if they have any trouble.

After a 25-mile bus drive to Sumburgh airport, the Bulgarians boarded a Business Air flight to Glasgow for an onward flight to Burgas in Bulgaria. There was some bitterness about the settlement terms they had accepted. Dr Dimitrov, one of the trio seeking asylum, said: "This is for our families, for our children who have been living in poverty for three years." He said the settlement was humiliating and had been forced on the crew by legal threats.

Another seaman said: "I am not happy. I have only $2,000 for all my work and I have had to fight the Bulgarian Government and everyone to get it. Who knows when I will get the rest"

But other crewmen said the deal was good and they were happy to go home. Sava Alexsiev, the ship's second officer, said he would change his dollars into travellers' cheques at Glasgow airport. Others planned to do the same, saying they feared thieves or official confiscation when they reached home.

Failure rate for drink-drive tests hits record low

By Jonathan Prynn, Transport Correspondent

THE proportion of drivers failing or refusing breath tests has fallen to a new low, according to government figures that provide fresh evidence of the police winning the war against drink-driving.

A record 678,500 drivers were stopped for breath tests in England and Wales last year, of whom only 93,000, 14 per cent, were over the limit or would not co-operate.

Although the number of failures was slightly up last year, the trend for the proportion of failures remains steeply downwards. In 1984, when only a third as many tests were carried out, the failure rate was 42 per cent.

Home Office officials welcomed the figures but said there was no question of easing the campaign against drink-drivers. Between 90,000 and 100,000 are prosecuted each year and there are an estimated one million drivers on Britain's roads who regularly drink over the legal limit.

The statistics mirror the steep fall in the number of drink-driving related deaths, which have halved from more than 1,000 a year in the early 1980s to the present level of about 500.

Last year the highest failure rate was in the Northumbria police area, where almost half of the 6,100 drivers stopped were over the limit or refused to take the test. Other areas with high failure rates were Nottinghamshire (40 per cent), North Yorkshire (37 per cent) and West Midlands (35 per cent). Cleveland had a failure rate of only 6 per cent. Other forces with low rates were the Metropolitan Police, Cambridgeshire and Derbyshire (all 8 per cent) and Lincolnshire (7 per cent).

There were more than 129,000 tests conducted in December. The next highest month for tests was August with nearly 57,000. Although most counties saw reductions in the failure rate, the biggest came in Greater Manchester, down from 26 per cent to 9 per cent, and Merseyside (28 per cent to 16 per cent).

The Metropolitan Police carried out the most tests, nearly 142,000 or 390 a day, but the failure rate rose by 2 percentage points.

The Home Office figures also suggest that costly Christmas campaigns against drink-driving are having a big impact. During December the failure rate fell to just 7 per cent, another record.

The legal alcohol limit for drivers in Britain is 80 milligrams of alcohol for every 100 millilitres of blood, the equivalent of about one and a half pints of beer. It is one of the highest limits in Europe.

☐ Revenue from alcohol sales could fall if the present excise levels are increased, the Institute for Fiscal Studies said in a report published yesterday.

New potatoes and white fish abundant

By Michael Eskenazi

WEEKEND SHOPPING

WHITE fish is in good supply this week. Plaice fillets are priced at £2.99 a pound in Waitrose, and fresh plaice is £2.79 in the Co-op. New season sea trout are about £6 per pound at most fishmongers.

Iceland has 600g frozen cod fillets in ovencrisp breadcrumb for £1.99, while Tesco has smoked cod fillet at £2.2[illegible] per lb and Budgen has fresh breaded cod fillet at £2.59 per lb. Seasonal specialties also include new potatoes at Somerfield for 24p per lb and at Waitrose for £1.39. Somerfield offers spring greens at 55p per 500g.

Advertised best buys include:

Asda: Coke/diet Coke, 12 330ml cans, £2.69; Palmolive soap, four bars, 99p.

Budgen: white grapes, £1.09 per lb; John Smith's bitter, 12 440ml cans for £6.99.

Co-op: Heinz WeightWatchers beef lasagne, 295g, 99p; Findus Lean Cuisine prawn curry with rice, 291g, 99p.

Iceland: chicken drumsticks, 1.6kg, £2.49; beef in black bean sauce, 99p; low-fat yoghurt, eight for £1.39.

Marks & Spencer: lamb leg steaks, £2.99 per lb; tomatoes (family-size pack), 99p.

Safeway: Cathedral City fully matured cheddar, £2.[illegible] per lb; Safeway unsweetened orange juice, four x 1 litre, £1.75.

Sainsbury's: pitta bread, six pieces, 23p; houmous, 300g, 89p; American-style pepperoni pizza, 410g, £1.

Somerfield: red kidney beans, 400g, 29p; Del Monte apple juice, 1 litre, 59p.

Tesco: king rainbow trout steaks, £2.99 per pound; light fruit cake, 47p each; relishes, 300g for 42p.

Waitrose: whole Scottish salmon, 7lb 15oz, £1.99; ten assorted ice lollies, £1.29; cornflakes, 99p; full-flavour coffee powder, 200g, £2.29.

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Career overshadowed by forefathers

Furore over lottery handout sets back MP's prospects

By Andrew Pierce

THE National Lottery grant to secure the Churchill papers could not have come at a better time for Winston Churchill, MP.

The unpredictable right-wing Tory suffered large losses at Lloyd's and announced last month that he was separating, after 31 years of marriage, from his wife, Minnie d'Erlanger. His friendship with Luce Danielson, a Belgian divorcee, is blamed for the break-up. His political career may also be coming to an end.

Mr Churchill, 54, used to fly from his home in Kent to his Davyhulme constituency in south Manchester in a private plane. The aircraft has long since gone. The constituency disappears in boundary changes at the next election.

His efforts to secure an alternative seat have not succeeded. The furore over the Churchill papers will not enhance his prospects.

Davyhulme Tories cancelled a dinner in June to celebrate his 25th anniversary as an MP because of embarrassment caused by his relationship with Ms Danielson. Don Harding, a past president of the association, said: "His wife was a loyal and devoted worker in the constituency. It is all very sad."

Local Tory councillors and activists, deeply unhappy at the latest wave of hostile publicity, will question Mr Churchill when he next visits the constituency.

Mr Churchill, a father of four, had set his heart on becoming Defence Secretary when he was elected in 1970. But he served only briefly on the front bench when the Tories were last in Opposition. He was sacked by Margaret Thatcher for rebelling over Rhodesian sanctions.

By contrast his great-grandfather, Lord Randolph Churchill, had been Chancellor of the Exchequer and Leader of the Commons by the time of his death at 45. Sir Winston Churchill had served as President of the Board of Trade and Home Secretary before the First World War, while he was still in his thirties.

Mr Churchill knows that his name has helped his career. Mr Harding, who was on the panel which chose Mr Churchill 26 years ago, said: "It was one of the reasons we picked him. With that name we thought he was sure to get into the Cabinet."

He grew up surrounded by outsize characters, led by his father, the bombastic Randolph. He dined with Aristotle Onassis and Greta Garbo and beat Field-Marshal Montgomery at croquet. For years he has lived under the shadow of his glamorous mother, Pamela Harriman, the United States Ambassador in Paris.

After Eton and Oxford he became a foreign correspondent for *The Times*, having flown around Africa in his own plane.

In the Commons he became a crusader for right-wing causes such as South Africa. He was a vocal supporter of the Gulf War. In the past year he has made high-profile attacks on immigration that have not endeared him to the party high command. But the sentiments go down well with Tory selection committees.

The marriage to Minnie d'Erlanger was interrupted by an affair, to which he confessed, with Soraya Khashoggi. In 1993 there was a friendship with Jan Cushing, a New York socialite. His relationship with Ms Danielson finally broke the marriage.

Mr Churchill still hopes to secure a safe seat in time for the next election. He had hoped John Major would reward him with the ministerial job he believes he deserves. The fact that his cousin, Nicholas Soames, is rapidly rising the ministerial ranks has rubbed salt in the wound.

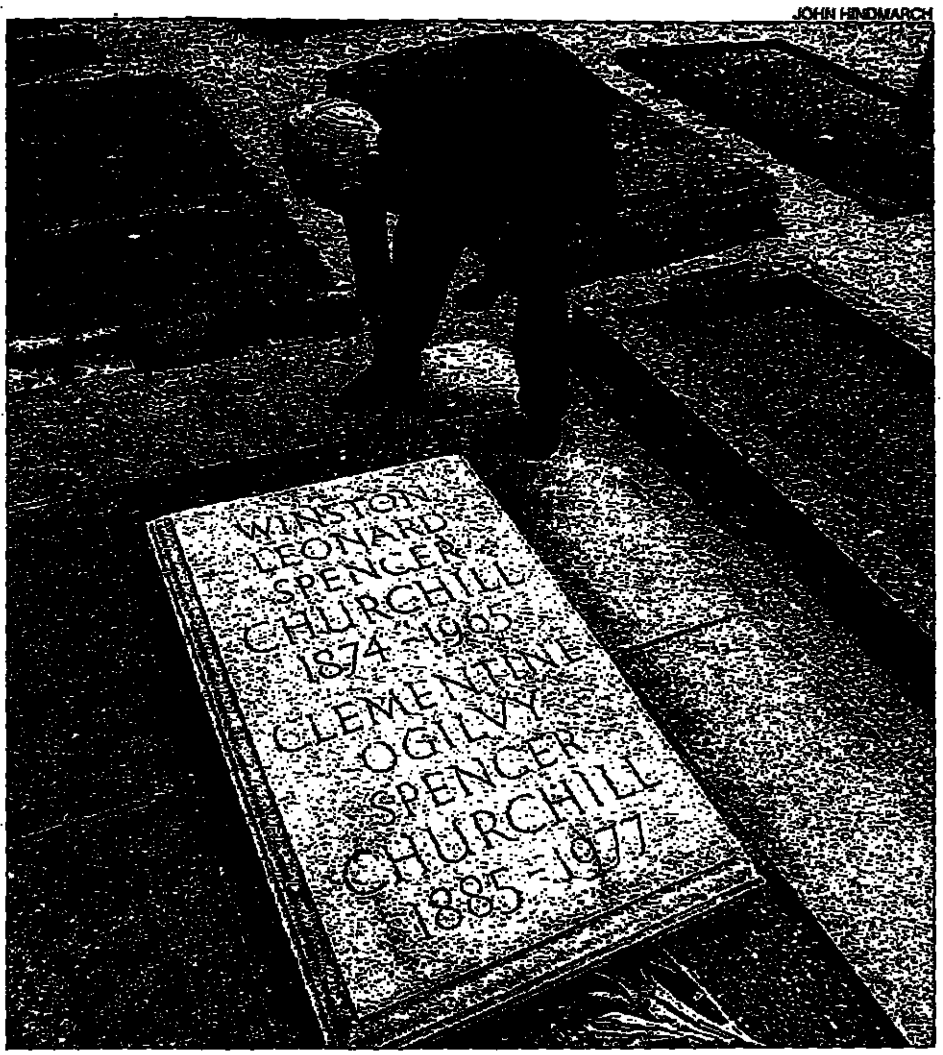
His sons, Randolph, 30, a chartered accountant, and Jack, who is about to join Oxford Brookes University, may go into politics. His daughter Marina, a barrister, is also rumoured to be considering a political career.

Mr Churchill knows the moment his name is mentioned comparisons begin with his grandfather. He has a favourite after-dinner story. "I was on a trip to the Gulf War. I walked up to a British soldier and said: 'Hi, I'm Winston Churchill.' He replied: 'Oh, yes, and I'm Rommel'."

Norman Stone and Diary, page 18
Letters, page 19

Minnie Churchill: divorce after 31 years

JOHN HINDMARCH



The simple memorial to Sir Winston in the churchyard of St Martin's, Bladon

£500,000 tidy-up of Churchill grave 'defies his wishes'

By Rachael Bletchly

PLANS to "tidy up" the grave of Sir Winston Churchill in time for the VE-Day celebrations are being opposed by locals and veterans, who fear the war leader's resting place will be turned into a tourist attraction.

The announcement by trustees of the Churchill estate that £500,000 is to be spent on the upkeep of the grave, at Bladon in Oxfordshire, has sparked concern that the special atmosphere of the simple memorial will be lost. Mark Berry, 78, a retired soldier who served in India and Burma, regularly stops to pay his respects.

He said: "He wanted a simple grave in his local churchyard and that's what he got. When Clementine was buried with him we all said that was fitting, too. They put a new stone down then and said it was only temporary until they got a bigger memorial. But this is how it has stayed — just as he wanted."

Churchill chose the burial plot, near the Blenheim estate where he was born. He died in 1965 and was joined 12 years later by his wife, Clementine. A new memorial stone was laid, bearing the simple inscription "Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill 1874-1965. Clementine Ogilvy Spencer Churchill 1885-1977".

Today the pale, slanting stone is surrounded by granite chippings within a 10ft by 6ft low slate wall. There are no "Keep Off" signs and visitors regularly leave flowers and messages. "There was once talk of putting some railings round all the graves but that was dropped. I think it would have shut people out," said Mr Berry. "Sir Winston was a hero to the whole country. Without him the world would have been a far more terrible place. His wishes should be respected."

Diane Berry, 25, who lives in Heath Lane, Bladon, said yesterday: "A lot of the old soldiers are disappointed when they come a long way to see the grave and find it is so plain. But once they know it is what Churchill wanted they respect that."

Presidents' relatives can claim tax breaks

From Martin Fletcher
in Washington

THE relatives of an American president have not sold his personal papers for profit since the mid-19th century, and even then there were extenuating circumstances.

President John Tyler, who left office in 1845, backed the South in the Civil War and was left almost destitute. After his death, his younger second wife sold his papers to keep alive herself and her family.

Since 1797, when George Washington left office, a president's personal papers have been considered his personal property and he has been able to bequeath them to his heirs.

In 1969, Congress legislated to prevent presidents taking sizeable tax deductions in return for donating their records to their presidential libraries; there had been a row when Lyndon Johnson had done this. President Nixon also sought a tax deduction for donating papers relating to his earlier vice-presidency to the National Archives.

In 1978, the law was changed again to prevent Mr Nixon from spiriting away White House tapes and documents relating to Watergate. The Presidential Records Act essentially divided a president's White House papers into public documents to be taken over by the National Archives and personal papers that belonged to him.

Mr Nixon fought that Act for the rest of his life; his descendants are continuing the fight. They do not want to sell the Watergate records, but to keep them secret.

There is nothing to stop a president, or his descendants, from selling his personal papers, but they tend to be wealthy and under no pressure to do so. Recent presidents and their relatives have donated some personal papers to their presidential libraries. Unlike the presidents, their descendants may claim tax deductions for such donations.

Three PMs hold on to 'private property'

By Nigel Williamson
Whitehall Correspondent

THE papers of three former prime ministers — Edward Heath, James Callaghan and Margaret Thatcher — remain private property and unavailable to scholars. However, most of the private papers of Britain's other post-war prime ministers have been deposited with academic institutions and libraries.

"Lady Thatcher's papers are her private property," her office said. "She has no plans to dispose of them." Their value on the American market would be huge, although her office said there had never been talk of selling them. Nor are there plans to make them available to academics.

Sir Edward Heath's papers occupy 1,400 boxes at his home in Salisbury. They were delivered from London with the intention of assisting him with his memoirs.

The largest collection of prime ministerial papers is at the Bodleian Library, Oxford. In the past year the library has added the papers of Harold Wilson and Harold Macmillan. The Wilson papers were removed from vaults in central London, where they had been housed by the publishers Weidenfeld after the publication of Lord Wilson of Rievaulx's memoirs and the official biography.

Some of Clement Attlee's papers are also at the Bodleian, as are the papers of Disraeli and Asquith. The library said the papers were mostly gifts.

The papers of Sir Anthony Eden are lodged at Birmingham University, while Churchill College, Cambridge, has the papers of three others who had prime ministerial aspirations: Neil Kinnock, Quentin Hogg and Ernest Bevin. The college also has a collection of Attlee's papers.

Downing Street said that John Major had not made any plans about his papers covering his time in office.

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Major still struggling with a performance that fails to satisfy many Conservative voters

Tories given hope as decline in support levels out

By Peter Riddell

THE Tories' poll ratings have levelled off since the New Year after declining steadily during the previous two and a half years. But there are no signs of any underlying improvement in the public's view of the Government or of John Major's performance as Prime Minister.

According to MORI polls for *The Times*, the Tories dropped from 43 per cent just after the 1992 election to 34 per cent by the end of that year, 28 per cent by the end of 1993 and 23 per cent by the final quarter of last year. But the rating in the first three months of this year picked up marginally to an average of 25 per cent, and 26 per cent now.

This points at least to a bottoming out of Tory support and there is some evidence, as in the accompanying graph, of a slight pick-up compared with last autumn's record low ratings among the middle classes. But the party's rating is near record low levels among unskilled workers.

These ratings are below the low points of previous Parliaments. In the first half of 1990, party support was 34 per cent; in the summer of 1985 it was 31 per cent; and in the last quarter of 1981, at the height of the SDP boom, it was 27 per cent.

Major: facing an uphill battle

The Tories are behind Labour in every age group and among both men and women. But Labour is performing relatively better compared with the Tories among younger women than those aged over 55. For instance, Labour has a 63 to 16 per cent edge over the Tories among women aged 18-24, but the gap is just 51 to 34 per cent among women over 55. The contrast is much less among men. The gap between the parties is 60 to 22 per cent among men aged 18-24, but still 58 to 28 per cent among men aged over 55.

There is no evidence yet of any shift in underlying public attitudes towards the Tories. For the past five months, only about 10 per cent have been satisfied with the way the Government is running the country with more than 80 per cent dissatisfied.

Similarly, a broadly unchanged proportion of 20 to 22 per cent have been satisfied with the way Mr Major is doing his job as Prime Minister with more than two-thirds dissatisfied. Only just over a half even of the reduced band of Tory supporters has been satisfied with Mr Major's performance.

The public remains uncertain about the economic outlook. The MORI economic optimism index, measuring those believing that the economic condition of the country will improve rather than get worse over the next 12 months, is still negative at minus 16 points. This compares with minus 18 points at the end of March. For the past three months, a fifth or less of the public have believed that the economy will improve.

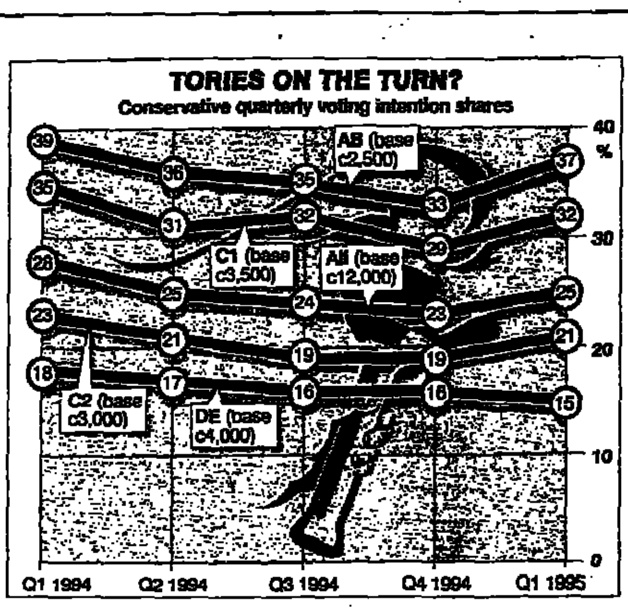
Economic optimism is highest among professional people and lowest among unskilled workers. Tory supporters are are also much more optimistic than Labour supporters.

The latest MORI poll shows that unemployment remains top of the list of the most important issues facing Britain today. Second is the health service, followed by education, which has become a central issue in the local election campaign. The number of people mentioning education has risen from 25 to 33 per cent over the past month. This may reflect the arguments over school budgets and the publicity given to the conferences of the teaching unions just before the interviews were done.

☐ *MORI interviewed a representative quota sample of 1,937 adults at 149 ward sampling points across Britain. Interviews were conducted face-to-face on April 21 to 24. Data were weighted to match the profile of the population. Voting intention figures exclude those who say they would not vote (9 per cent), are undecided (8 per cent) or who refuse to name a party (2 per cent).*

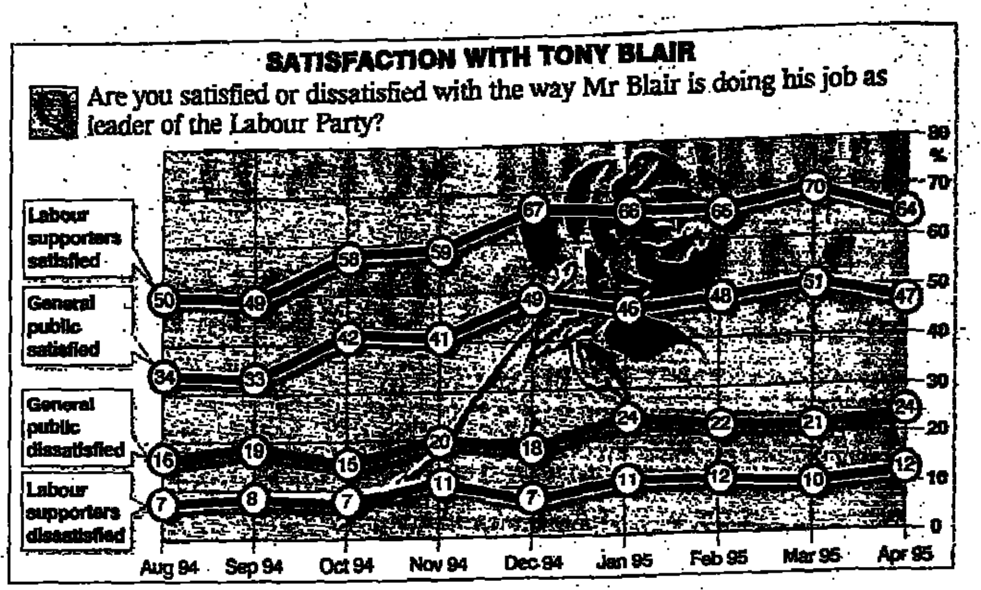
TORIES ON THE TURN?

Conservative quarterly voting intention shares



SATISFACTION WITH TONY BLAIR

Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way Mr Blair is doing his job as leader of the Labour Party?



Blair's Clause 4 campaign stirs the middle classes

TONY BLAIR'S campaign to rewrite Clause Four of the Labour constitution has made most impact on middle-class rather than working-class people, according to a MORI poll for *The Times* ahead of the crucial vote tomorrow afternoon (Peter Riddell writes).

The poll shows that Mr Blair's approval rating is higher than enjoyed by his three predecessors as Labour leader at any time during their time in the post. The striking feature is the breadth of support for Mr Blair, particularly in the middle classes. The proportion of professional and managerial people satisfied with his performance as Labour leader is 51 per cent, slightly higher than the 45 per cent among unskilled workers.

Satisfaction with his record is lowest among the 18-24 age group and highest among the middle aged and those nearing retirement. Labour supporters generally approve of his record by a 2-1 margin and he even enjoys a positive rating among Conservative supporters.

A surprising feature of the lengthy debate over Clause Four is how Liberal Democrat supporters are more aware of the issue than Labour supporters. According to the poll, 29 per cent of Liberal Democrat supporters say they know a great deal or a fair amount about Clause Four, while only 20 per cent of Labour supporters say they do. This may partly tie in with social class differences since the middle classes are twice as likely as working-class people to know about the issue, and Labour support is strongest among the latter social groups.

Blair: faring better than his predecessors

Nearly three times as many men as women say they know a great deal or a fair amount about Clause Four. Awareness is highest among those aged 45 to 64, who are also most favourably disposed towards Mr Blair. Just over a half of Labour supporters say that they care a lot or a little about whether Labour changes Clause Four, only a slightly higher proportion than among Liberal Democrat supporters.

These findings point to Mr Blair's appeal to Liberal Democrat supporters, which is an opportunity for him and a dilemma for Paddy Ashdown. Liberal Democrat support has picked up nationally in recent weeks and Mr Ashdown's approval rating remains positive, both among the public and among Liberal Democrat supporters.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY In the Commons: questions to Northern Ireland ministers and the Prime Minister were follwed by a debate on China and Hong Kong. In the Lords: debate on the Jobseekers Bill, committee stage.

TODAY In the Commons: the Road Traffic (New Drivers) Bill reaches its report stage. In the Lords: debate on the Finance Bill (all stages) followed by a debate on human rights in Burma, opened by Baroness Cox.

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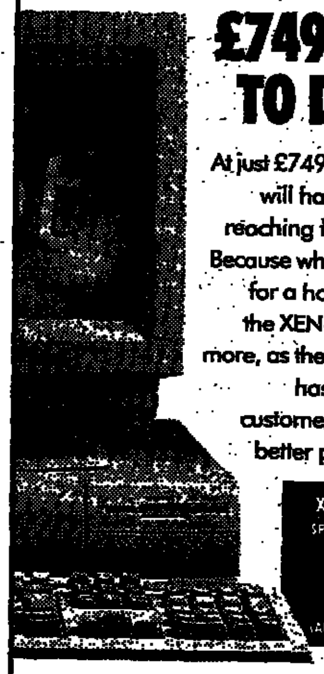

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Lib Dems prepare to build on success

By James Landale
Political Reporter

THE Liberal Democrats presented their 1993 by-election victories in Newbury and Christchurch as the dawn of a new era of support for the party. The defeated Tories said the results were nothing more than a mid-term protest votes.

Two years on, at next week's local elections, the Liberal Democrats look likely to increase their support in both areas. Despite attempts by local Tories to regroup, they still face a drubbing as voters register their unhappiness with the Government.

Until 1993, the area's aged population, a third of whom are retired, would leave their bungalows at election time and return a Tory MP with a solid majority. Christchurch council and part of East Dorset district council, which make up the constituency, were always Tory-controlled.

But since July 1993, when former Tory voters elected a Liberal Democrat MP, Diana Maddock, with a swing of 35.4 per cent, the tide of Liberal Democrat support has surged. The party has won two seats on the Christchurch council at recent by-elections.

On Thursday the Tories face losing control of Christchurch and East Dorset. "Christchurch has always been seen as true blue," Andrew Garratt, the Liberal Democrat agent, said. "After May 4, that will no longer be true."

Even Judy Jamieson, the Tory agent, admits that voters are "not overjoyed" with the Government. "There is a possibility that the Liberals will pick up a few seats but not in the wholesale way that they expect and I think we'll do better than the pundits believe," she said.

Although the Liberal Democrats will win seats next week, they admit that they will not necessarily control the 25-seat Christchurch council because support for the 11-strong independent group appears to be holding. In Newbury, they are more established, having won control of the Newbury district council in 1991, and look likely to increase their majority this time.

Acrimonious council election battle has degenerated into a war game, says judge

Labour row leaflets are passed to the DPP

By Ian Murray, Local Government Correspondent

ELECTION leaflets at the centre of a row between official and breakaway Labour candidates in Northamptonshire are to be sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

One set of leaflets was published by the official Labour Party; the other leaflets are unsigned but urge voters to back the breakaway Corby First Labour Party, led by 11 former councillors who have been deselected by the party.

At a county court hearing in Northampton yesterday the breakaway group, which is fielding candidates in 23 of the 27 Corby seats in next Thursday's elections, abandoned an attempt to obtain an injunction to stop the official party distributing its leaflets.

John Cooper, for Corby First Labour, told Northampton County Court that the the group had sought the injunction because the leaflets "suggested they had been guilty of something little short of corruption by virtue of being denied candidature. They strongly deny impropriety."

He said the group decided to drop the case because it accepted that nothing could be done to recall the leaflets already issued and because the borough's returning officer had already referred them to the DPP.

David Bean, counsel for the Labour Party, said that courts throughout the land would have to be in permanent session throughout April and May if political parties complained about each other's leaflets. "There hasn't been a local election campaign since time began in which the Conservatives don't say Labour wasted money — and next week the people will decide whether they are right or wrong." The leaflets that had caused offence were being superseded by new ones extolling the virtues of the Labour Party without mentioning the breakaway group, he said.

Judge Richard Bray, who was listed to hear the case, said that the campaign seemed to have degenerated into a kind of war game. He hoped that both sides could reach a compromise and "fight the rest of the election in a spirit that is typical of the British people".

He added: "The last thing the judiciary want to get involved in is politics. Unless something is blatantly untrue we should not get involved. It is for the people to decide."

Looking at the leaflets he said: "The majority of this is comment of the usual kind at election time although I appreciate there is a high degree of animosity here.

"Surely the overall principle must be freedom of speech. If it were otherwise, every time there was an election people would start running to the courts and expect judges to rewrite party election manifestos."

Judge Bray said that although he hoped that the two sides could reach some kind of agreement the level of animosity was such that it was probably a pious hope. "I always try to bring into this a degree of common sense but the approach here is one of a war game."

He said he could order the Labour Party to stop circulating its leaflets but it had already agreed to do so. Corby First's leaflets about the Labour Party showed that they were "perfectly capable of giving as good as they get". The judge turned down a request for costs from the Labour Party.

Peter McGowan, chairman of Corby First and the former deputy leader of the Labour group, said that he was satisfied with the result. "Labour have admitted there were inaccuracies in their leaflets and they have given an undertaking not to distribute them."

Gerald Shamash, a Labour Party solicitor in charge of electoral law, said he would give the police an unsigned leaflet alleging that a Labour candidate was a drug addict. "Corby First deny anything to do with this although it does urge people to vote for their candidates," he said.

"... How about a cooling off period?"
DIVORCE on grounds of IDEOLOGICAL INCOMPATIBILITY
DIVORCE on grounds of IRREVERSIBLE BREAKDOWN OF RELATIONSHIP
OFFICIAL LABOUR

Tories back Hanley's corruption allegations

By Nicholas Wood

TORY MPs last night rallied to the side of Jeremy Hanley, the Tory party chairman, over his dogged insistence that Labour councils are riddled with corruption.

Several Tories tabled Commons motions calling on Tony Blair, the Labour leader, to conduct public inquiries into alleged malpractice in his party's town halls.

Mr Hanley said yesterday that the evidence against Labour was growing by the day. There were "cases of fraud by Labour councils, of membership irregularities in local Labour parties, of Labour councillors engaged in civil war and even allegations of infiltration by gangsters into local Labour politics".

Police investigations were under way in Paisley, Liverpool, Manchester, Tameside and North Tyneside, he said. In six other areas, party chiefs were conducting internal inquiries into local parties.

Gorman incurs Gallic wrath

By Arthur Leathley
Political Correspondent

WHEN two of the *doyennes* of European Union political debate crossed swords yesterday, the result was as brutally abrupt as it was predictable.

The verbal duel between Elizabeth Guigou, the French MEP and irresistible force of European federalism, and Teresa Gorman, Tory MP for Billericay and champion of British Euro-scepticism, lasted only seconds.

A radio interview between the two politicians took no time to heat up into a blazing dispute before Mme Guigou, former French minister for Europe, put the phone down on her vociferous adversary. Mme Guigou struck first by saying on BBC Radio 4's *The World At One*: "What I would certainly deplore would be for the next French president to be close to the Conservative Eurosceptics."

Mrs Gorman responded with a comment on the benefits of such close political relationships but emphasised that the British were concerned at the amount of taxpayers' money going to the European Union. At that point any hopes of an *entente cordiale* vanished and an exasperated Mme Guigou broke in with an angry flourish: "You cannot be in and out. Goodbye."

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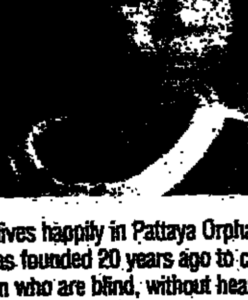

Photograph by Paul Knights

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Mussolini execution 'was a sham'

From John Phillips in Rome

A NEW volume of biography of Mussolini by one of Italy's most respected historians will claim that left-wing partisans faked Il Duce's execution, firing into his corpse after he had already been killed, possibly by British agents.

Professor Renzo De Felice also argues that Mussolini agreed to head the Nazi puppet Salò Republic to avoid the Nazis occupying northern Italy and incorporating Italian soldiers into the Wehrmacht.

The professor, chair of modern political history at Rome University, has not revealed what evidence he provides in *La Guerra Civile* 1943-1945 (The Civil War) to support his claims, but they follow 15 years of speculation that the Marxist partisans who shot Mussolini and his mistress Claretta Petacci on April 28, 1945, gave a false account of events.

Franco Bandini, a popular historian, claimed that Mussolini was shot by English agents to prevent him from revealing secret negotiations he had held with Churchill. It is not known if the professor's evidence supports this theory.

The Italian press has been full of speculation about the circumstances of Il Duce's death in the run-up to today's 50th anniversary. Vittorio Mussolini, the dictator's son, told *Oggi* magazine that he believed Mussolini was shot in a struggle with a partisan who was trying to rape his mistress.

In another report, Urbano Lazzaro, the partisan who arrested Mussolini and Petacci on April 27 near the town of Dongo, beside Lake Como, said they were shot by accident by another fighter, Alfredo Mordini. He told *Panorama* magazine that their bodies were then taken to Milan, where they were strung upside down from the roof of a petrol station.

Mr Lazzaro, who did not witness the shooting, said that Mordini was among partisans who drove to collect Mussolini and Petacci from a house in the town of Bonzanigo, where they had been held overnight. Partisan commanders had decided to take Mussolini to Milan for execution in the piazzale Loreto, where 15 partisans had been executed by the Fascists in August the previous year.

A struggle ensued when the partisans ordered Mussolini to sit in a car without his mistress. Fearing they were about to shoot her lover, Petacci tried to grab the submachinegun Mordini was carrying and shouted a warning. Mussolini jumped out of the car and was fatally wounded by Mordini, who then shot Petacci. According to Mr Lazzaro, Walter Audisio, the partisan credited by official Communist Party history with having pulled the trigger, played no direct part.

Panorama journalists said that when Mussolini was arrested, two cases of documents were seized, one of them supposedly stuffed full of documents of his negotiations with Churchill. These were taken first to the Dongo town hall and then to an inn, the Albergo Bazzoni, at the nearby town of Tremezzo.

British Intelligence, upon learning of the dictator's capture, officially mirrored the view of the Americans that he should be tried for war crimes. "But the existence of the Churchill-Mussolini papers in the hands of Il Duce justifies more than a little doubt over British motives," the magazine claims. "Was it by chance that the Albergo Bazzoni was bombed by two RAF airplanes on April 30, leaving dozens of dead and wounded?"

Italian historians and journalists cannot agree on how and when Il Duce died

Gruesome find coincided with campaign end

By John Young

ON APRIL 29, 1945, Benito Mussolini was found hanging upside down in a square in Milan, surrounded by the corpses of several of his former supporters.

The *Times* correspondent was one of two reporters who entered the city ahead of the Allied troops and brought the news back to headquarters. He described the bodies as "heaped together with ghastly promiscuity".

That same day the German forces in Italy signed an unconditional surrender. The two events were, however, unconnected in that Il Duce had long since ceased to wield authority — he had been stripped of office in July 1943 by King Victor Emmanuel III, who described him as "the most hated man in Italy".

His country had surrendered on September 8, 1943, the day before the Anglo-American landings at Salerno, south of Naples, and had espoused the Allied cause only five weeks later. But Italy's defection served only to heighten Hitler's fury and to strengthen German resistance in one of the longest and hardest campaigns of the war.

In January 1943 Churchill and Roosevelt, meeting at Casablanca, agreed that the next move after driving the Germans out of North Africa should be the capture of Sicily to secure the Mediterranean sea lanes, to be followed by an invasion of mainland Italy.

After weeks of bombardment by the RAF, the British Eighth Army under Montgomery and the United States Seventh under Patton went ashore on July 10. The city of Messina, on the northeast coast, was taken more than a month later, and the way to the mainland was open.

Operation Avalanche, coinciding with Italy's surrender, provoked a ferocious response. Not only did the Germans turn on their former allies, taking thousands of prisoners of war, but they threw in the Panzers in such strength that the invading forces, under General Mark Clark, were all but halted.

The Allies' counter-attack succeeded, albeit with heavy casualties, and the long march began. Autumn brought heavy rains and by December fighting had reached a stalemate in mud and misery.

The Allied response was to order a landing at Anzio, only 37 miles from Rome, on January 22, 1944. But although the Germans were caught unawares, the advantage was largely lost because of the reluctance of the American General Lucas to break out from the beach-head. Churchill was furious. "I expected to see a wildcat roaring into the mountains," he stormed. "And what do I find? A whale wallowing on the beaches."

The advance was also delayed by five months of bitter fighting for Cassino. Allied artillery and airpower eventually proved superior, but the destruction of the 14th-century monastery on the mountain top, because it housed a German observation post, still arouses controversy.

On June 4 the United States 88th Division finally entered Rome, two days before D-Day. But the long slog into northern Italy was to continue for another 11 months, a war of attrition as the Allies fought their way across the so-called Gothic Line, stretching for 200 miles from La Spezia on the Gulf of Genoa to Pesaro on the Adriatic.

Hitler's refusal to consider retreat or surrender and the superb quality of the German troops under Field Marshal Kesselring contributed to the high cost of victory. It was perhaps more than anything massive air superiority that won the day.

Astor: wanted pay of troops in Italy halved

Among the victors the ceasefire was greeted more with relief than euphoria. The British, Americans, Canadians, New Zealanders, Indians, South Africans, Greeks, French and Poles who had fought their way up the peninsula were exhausted and embittered that their exploits had been overshadowed by the drama of D-Day.

In response to a gibe alleged to have been made by Nancy Astor, the troops sang:

We're the D-Day Dodgers,
out in Italy;
Always on the vino, always
on the spree.

The MP always denied it but, according to Victor Selwyn, editor of *The Voice of War*, an anthology of wartime poetry, she suggested to Parliament that the pay of the troops fighting in Italy should be halved to 9d (less than 4p) a day.

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‘Whoever allows others to steal somebody’s freedom will ultimately lose his freedom’

Germany pledges to keep memory of Holocaust alive

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMANY yesterday paid tribute to the victims of the Holocaust, promising that the fate of the Jews and others murdered by the Nazis would not be swept aside after the various fiftieth anniversary commemorations are over.

In the stark, windswept compound of Belsen concentration camp, President Herzog sought to put the Jewish tragedy at the centre of the end-of-war commemorations. Many German speeches this year, including the President's keynote address in Dresden, seem to have focused more on German suffering than the Holocaust. The Dresden speech emphasised German victims of Allied bombing and mentioned many times the unhappy fate of Germans forced out of their homes by Soviet forces. Some Jews were unhappy that Herr Herzog made no speech at Auschwitz in January; and Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, has not used any of the camp liberation anniversaries to draw lessons for contemporary Germany.

Yesterday, the German head of state, fighting back tears, attempted to right the balance. Germany was not about to shrug off the Holocaust nor in any way downgrade the victims. "The generation of eyewitnesses is ending, and another generation is emerging which faces the danger of regarding the experiences of Bergen-Belsen merely as history." Germany was committed to ensuring that memories would be kept alive and would not use the anniversaries as a cut-off point. His speech was in striking contrast to some of Herr Kohl's utterances as he tries to persuade Germans to view themselves as a "normal" nation, able to express patriotic attitudes and openly acknowledge that they, too, suffered during the war. Some critics believe that the Chancellor has gone too far and has used some anniversaries to make political capital.

President Herzog, by contrast, emphasised yesterday that Germany was excluding nobody from its memory of Nazi crimes, acknowledging the murder not only of Jews but also of gypsies, Russians, Christian activists, unionists, Socialists and the handicapped. His chief message was that Germans were "responsible not only for what they do, but also for what they allow to happen. Whoever allows others to steal somebody's freedom will ultimately lose his own freedom."

He cited the cases of Germans who chose to ignore that their Jewish doctor or shopkeeper had been arrested, and who continued to visit cafés and libraries even when Jews were banned from them.

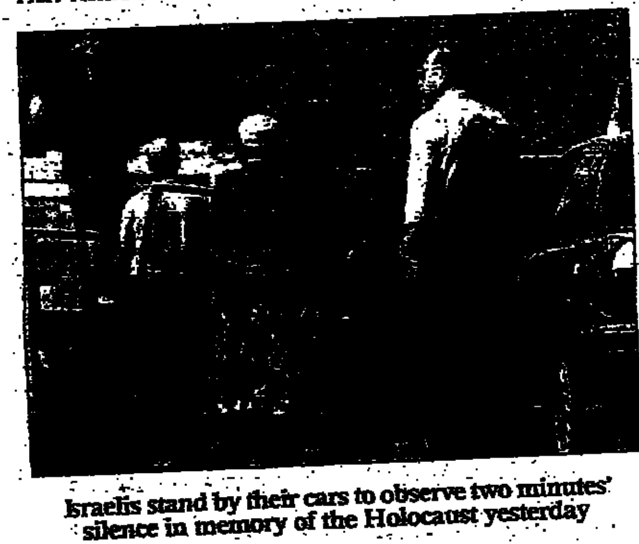
Ignatz Bubis, the head of Germany's small Jewish community, took up the President's theme. "We must not keep silent; not only for the sake of the dead, but also for the sake of today's and future generations. How else shall we learn from history? How shall our children learn that, for instance, here in Bergen-Belsen conditions were so inhuman that after the liberation another 13,000 people died."

The liberation of Belsen occurred on April 15, 1945, but as the anniversary fell during Passover, the ceremony was delayed. Chaim Herzog, a former Israeli President, also attended. A rabbi said a prayer for the dead.

About 50,000 people died in the camp, which was intended for so-called "exchange Jews" — those given foreign passports and prepared to be swapped for German nationals detained abroad. But Belsen soon became a concentration camp, albeit without gas chambers.

Although reports of the camps had been trickling through to the Allied countries, nothing quite as graphic as the pictures of Belsen had ever been seen. Victims included 50,000 Soviet prisoners of war, 20,000 gypsies and 30,000 Jews, including Anne Frank, whose diary records the years of Jewish persecution in Europe.

Helmut Kohl, Rita Süssmuth, third from right, the parliamentary president, President Herzog and Chaim Herzog mourn at Bergen-Belsen yesterday


Israelis stand by their cars to observe two minutes' silence in memory of the Holocaust yesterday

Israelis pledge to spearhead war on resurgent fascism

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

FIFTY years after the liberation of the last Nazi death camp, Israel marked Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day with a note of defiance and dogged determination that the horror of the events which led to the formation of the Jewish state will never be forgotten.

At 10am yesterday, air raid sirens throughout the country wailed and every vehicle stopped as drivers and passengers climbed out in the 90F heat to stand in silence for two minutes to remember the six million Jews who died.

Earlier, President Weizman opened a series of sombre ceremonies with a speech reminding the world that next week, when VE-Day will be marked in Europe "with the attendance of the Israeli President as symbol of Israel's sovereignty ... the Jewish people will say proudly, loud and clear, 'I shall not die but shall live.'

"We are again witnessing today the continuation of neo-Nazi and neo-Fascist movements" he said. "Whether it is a question of bands of hooligans, or established political parties, the state of Israel has to spearhead the war against those following in the Nazis' footsteps."

Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister and a former Chief of Staff, paid tribute to the Allied troops who liberated the concentration camps as they swept through Europe. "Fifty years have passed since the doors of hell were opened," he said. "I want today to say thank you to the Allies and their armies who, though they tarried too long, brought the day of redemption."

Amid a mass of editorials in the Israeli press, the *Jerusalem Post* singled out for comment the refusal of the Jewish people to put the outrage of the Nazi attempt to perpetrate a "Final Solution" behind them. "Half a century after the liberation of the death camps, the Jews refuse to forget," it said. "If anything, Jewish preoccupation with the Holocaust is greater than ever."

David Grossman, one of Israel's most widely admired authors, commented that despite the past year's good news — peace with Jordan, the withdrawal of Israeli soldiers from Gaza and an economic growth rate that is among the highest in the industrialised world — "people are still terrified". Mr Grossman said that Israelis still consider themselves to be in danger of extinction, either collectively at the hands of enemies such as Iran or Iraq, or individually as victims of Islamic terrorist attacks.

Forgiving spirit for veterans

Moscow: It is open season for drunken war veterans in part of Siberia until the May 9 celebrations commemorating the 50th anniversary of the victory over the Nazis, Tass said yesterday.

Veterans in the Kemerovo region of Siberia who normally would be taken to a cell to sober up will instead be escorted home by police over the next two weeks, Siberia's interior department said. However, the authorities asked police to ensure that public drunkenness did not interfere with the celebrations marking the end of the war in Europe. *(AFP)*

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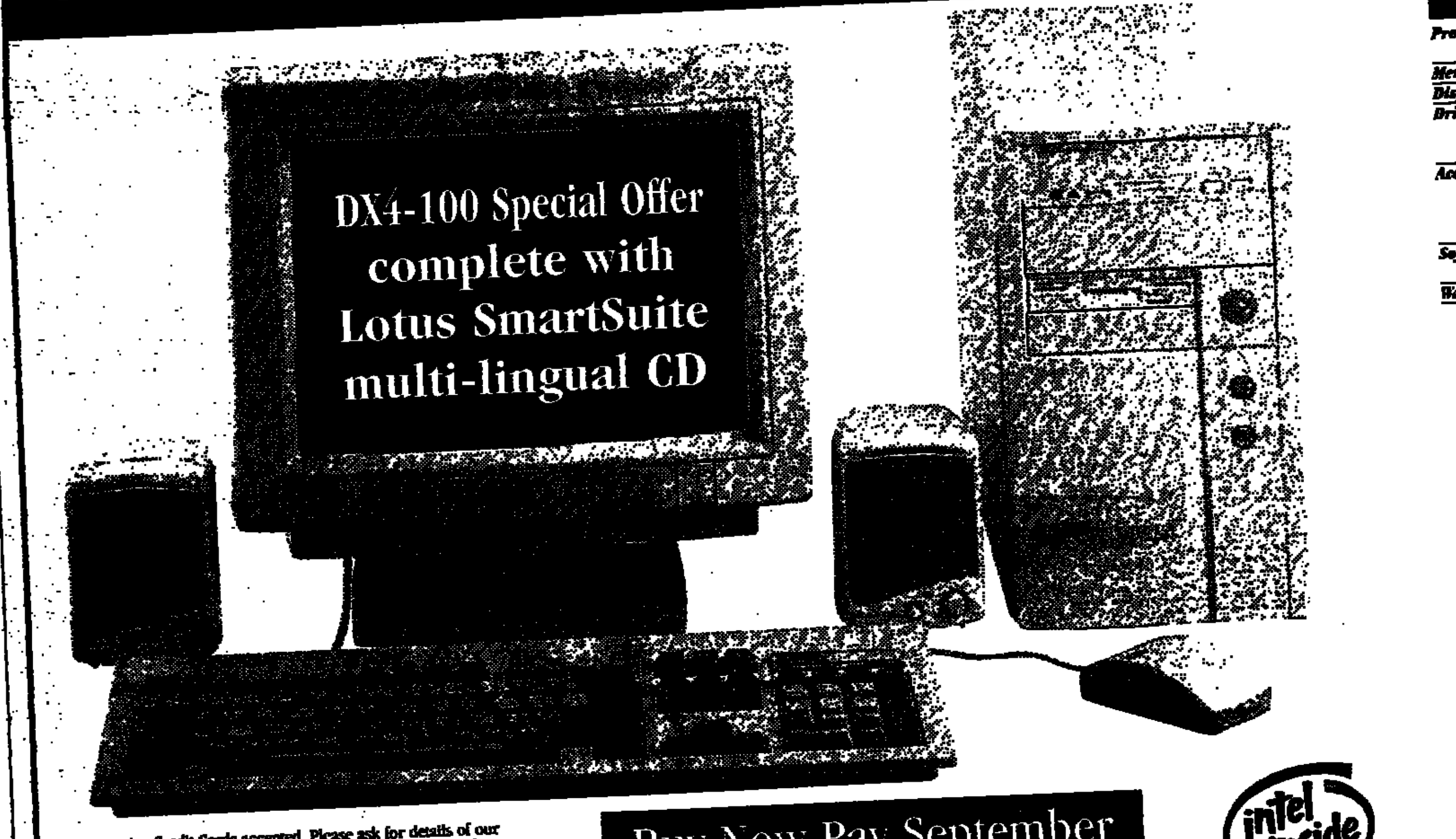
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Rival wives wait to make their mark at Elysée

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

FRENCH ELECTION

LIONEL JOSPIN, the French Socialist presidential candidate, is busy casting himself as a new man in the Clinton mould but without much success, given that he was recently a senior minister. However, he does have one thing in common with the US President — a high-powered wife.

If her husband wins the presidency, Sylviane Agacinski Jospin may not become a Gallic Hillary, but she will never be the kind of *première dame* who spends her days fussing over the curtains at the Elysée Palace. An author and philosophy lecturer at the prestigious High Social Sciences School, Mme Jospin, 48, has emerged as a glamorous figure in her own right, taking the stage alongside him and countering his grey image.

Outspoken by the standards of retiring French political wives, she only married M Jospin, 57, last year after a five-year romance that led to divorces from their respective spouses. She is, she says, intrigued by the strange role expected of French First Ladies. "It's like a *chiaroscuro* painting. The light shines on the wife who has to stay at the same time in the shadow of her husband," she said the other day. "But I'm taking it on completely, even if my friends are gently laughing at the idea of me being relegated to the category of spouse."

Her main worry, she says, is that people will read her books for the wrong reasons. Her works include tomes on Kierkegaard, the existentialist, and one called *The Philosophy and Politics of Architecture*.

"Mme Jospin is different from the lacquered and perfumed shadows that trail along behind the other candidates," an admiring magazine noted this week. That is a little hard on Danielle Mitterrand, who, though very discreet, runs her own humanitarian organisation. It also misjudges Bernadette Chirac, 61, the wife of the Gaullist candidate.

A fellow student who married Jacques in their early twenties, Mme Chirac is also a strong character but she has devoted her life to her husband's career, which has included two stints as Prime Minister and the Mayor's seat in Paris for the past 18 years.

"I don't take myself for Hillary Clinton," Mme Chirac said this month. "I am Jacques' groupie ... my role has hardly ever changed: it is to be the wagon behind the locomotive."

Friends credit Mme Jospin, a tall elegant woman whose legs have been the subject of much press comment, with giving a new lease of life to a man who was a near political outcast after losing his parliamentary seat and fighting with his party colleagues.

"She has made Lionel much less paranoid," says a friend. A close adviser on his campaign, she is known for criticising him sharply, telling him to loosen up and get away from the professorial style he acquired in his early career as a lecturer. The couple, who live frugally in a Left Bank flat with her ten-year-old son, fell for each other in 1989 when Sylviane, then married to a fellow philosopher, had a meeting with Lionel, who was Education Minister. "I was seduced by his warm presence," she told *Paris Match*.

A latecomer to political life, she says she is learning to watch her words after a notorious radio interview in March in which she complained that her husband left his dirty socks lying around and failed to help in the house. If M Jospin wins the seven-year stint as President, she wants to work for women's rights, especially in politics. The task is urgent, given that only 5 per cent of France's MPs are women, the lowest level in any developed nation except Greece.

Such words would be unthinkable from Mme Chirac, a member of the noble Chodron de Courcel family, which has given France generations of statesmen.

The model of discreet and elegant charm, Mme Chirac has never made waves in public, although she is famous for her reported conclusion on Jacques' defeat by François Mitterrand in the 1988 election: "Clearly the French do not like my husband."

Mme Chirac is the boss of the household, running the family accounts and giving the Gaullist leader pocket money to spend. She has sat for two decades as a councillor at their home village in the Corrèze *département*, receiving from her husband a diamond and sapphire bracelet from him each time he is re-elected.

Much of her time is spent caring for Laurence, their 36-year-old daughter, who has long suffered from mental illness and injuries received after a fall from a building. In recent weeks, the Chirac female most in sight has been Claude, 31, their second daughter, who is her father's chief campaign confidante and media manager. Claude, who is widely credited with reviving her father's political fortunes, still regrets a youthful gaffe a decade ago in which she told a magazine: "I will never sacrifice myself to a man like my mother did."

THIERRY CHESNOT

Sylviane Agacinski Jospin, left, writer and philosophy lecturer, and Bernadette Chirac, who describes herself as "Jacques' groupie"

Saudis dismiss protest over rise in beheadings

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

AT LEAST one person is likely to be marched into a crowded square in Saudi Arabia after noon prayers today, forced to kneel, and then beheaded with a 4ft curved sword in the name of Islam, and probably following an unfair trial.

The number of executions recorded in the kingdom has soared to record levels this year, with 90 men and women — most of them foreigners — put to death between January 20 and April 19, compared with 53 in the whole of last year.

One man living in terror of the Friday prayer execution ritual is Abd al-Aziz Muhammad Isse, a Somali sentenced to death for taking part in a triple murder which is reported to have happened before he had even arrived in the country, Amnesty International said this week.

The rights group said it was "gravely concerned at the sharp increase in the number of executions ... the highest number recorded by Amnesty International to have taken place in such a short period in Saudi Arabia".

Convicted men are usually beheaded and women shot or even stoned in the country, which has no penal code and where defendants are denied the right to be formally represented by a lawyer. Their alleged crimes range from murder to robbery with violence, sexual offences and those related to drugs and alcohol. One Saudi was beheaded after being convicted of charges which included witchcraft. A woman, Fatimah Bint Abdullah, was executed after being convicted of sexual offences and chewing the drug qat, Amnesty said.

The kingdom yesterday vowed to carry out the beheadings, despite the Amnesty protest, saying it was applying God's law. Prince Nayef ibn Abdul Aziz, the Interior Minister, said in Riyadh: "We apply the laws of God and don't pay attention to whoever says anything about that." Saudi officials say the Government is determined to crush drug smuggling.

"Executions are carried out after trials in which internationally agreed safeguards for prisoners facing the death sentence are completely ignored," Amnesty said. As well as defendants having no right to a defence lawyer, "confessions, even when obtained under torture, are accepted by the court."

The wave of executions coincides with a rise in robberies and drug-related offences, and a sweep against illegal immigrants.

In a 1993 report, Amnesty said: "Although death by beheading is claimed to be swift and 'merciful', in some cases several blows had to be administered before the victims were pronounced dead."

Israel plans to seize east Jerusalem land

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

SWEEPING plans by the Israeli Government to confiscate Arab-owned land in annexed east Jerusalem were disclosed yesterday, dealing a further blow to the already weakened Middle East peace process.

Orders signed by the Finance Minister appearing in an obscure publication of government notices disclosed that the Government intends to expropriate 133 acres of land owned mainly by Palestinians to build homes mostly for Jews and expand Israel's police headquarters.

The Tel Aviv daily *Haaretz* claimed that it would be the largest seizure of Arab land in the east of the Holy City for 15 years. "These confiscations are a severe threat to the whole peace process," Naibil Abu Irdeineh, a Palestinian Authority spokesman, said.

Yassir Arafat, chief of the self-rule authority established under the 1993 peace accord and leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, claimed that the Israeli move violated the deal signed in Washington. "They are daily breaching what had been agreed upon and this confiscation of land is one of these violations," he said. Mr Arafat's aides in Gaza said that he was furious with the Israeli plans, seen by Palestinians as an attempt to influence final negotiations on the future of Jerusalem.

Rabin: has promised to limit new settlements

Michal Cohen, spokeswoman for Israel's Lands Authority, claimed that one third of the land to be confiscated belonged to Jews and that some of it would be used to build Arab housing.

Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, has promised not to confiscate more land for settlements in the West Bank, but the pledges do not apply to east Jerusalem.

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صفحة من الاصل

Anti-government mood in US puts officials in fear

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

HOSTILITY towards the American Government is not confined to the Oklahoma bombers and a handful of extremists. A new Gallup poll finds that 39 per cent of Americans feel their Government "poses an immediate threat to their rights and freedoms", and that in many parts of the country federal officials are seen as the enemy, and fear for their lives.

The finding so astonished the poll-takers that "we read it over and over to make sure it wasn't misinterpreted," said one. The 39 per cent figure "reflects the same objections about the size and reach of government that we see in questions about taxation and spending and the attitudes voters expressed in the (congressional) elections last November."

Cases of harassment, intimidation and in some cases violence against government officials have been steadily increasing for more than a year. They have been spurred by the inflammatory talk of radio chat show hosts, wild warnings by groups like the National Rifle Association of government plans to curtail individual rights, and events like the deadly federal assault on the Branch Davidians' compound in Waco, which shocked even moderate Americans.

A prime example of the ultra-conservative talk show hosts is Gordon Liddy, the former Watergate conspirator. He has repeatedly advised listeners facing arrest by force to shoot law enforcement officers "in the head".

The hostility is most pronounced in the West, where the Government has been seeking to impose tougher conditions on ranchers, miners, loggers and other users of federal lands. The situation has become so serious that the National Forest Service is urging employees always to travel in pairs.

"It has become really hard to be a federal employee out here," John Freemuth, a public administration professor at Idaho's Boise state university, told *The New York Times* earlier this week. "They feel intimidated, isolated and demoralised. They wonder how they became the bad guys."

There have been numerous instances of violence against government employees in recent months. A bomb exploded at the Forest Service office in Carson City, Nevada, three weeks before the Oklahoma blast. In Missouri, a highway policeman who arrested an anti-government activist on firearms charges was shot and seriously wounded in his home. In Montana this month, police seeking to charge a woman over an expired car licence were confronted by armed paramilitary militia members.

Federal officials say there have been at least a dozen cases in states from Oregon to Indiana since last September, of law enforcement officers being confronted by armed militiamen.

Experts say the militia movement has spread like a prairie fire in remoter areas of America over the past two years, and that some policemen may themselves have enlisted.

Even some elected local officials have joined the war against the Government. Richard Carver, commissioner of Nevada's remote Nye County, disputes the Government's right to regulate logging and mining on federal lands and has bulldozed a road through a national forest in defiance of the Forest Service. The Forest Service has since abandoned routine road maintenance in Nye County, because it fears violence.

Terry Nichols, wearing body armour, is led from a court hearing in Wichita, Kansas

Bombing suspect 'planned wider terror campaign'

FROM TOM RHODES IN OKLAHOMA CITY

AMID some of the tightest security this state has seen, Timothy McVeigh appeared before a magistrate in Oklahoma yesterday as reports surfaced that his diaries revealed a plot for the simultaneous bombing of three targets in the American heartland.

A Texas newspaper reported that investigators had found a journal, allegedly belonging to Mr McVeigh, 27, the only suspect charged over the Oklahoma bombing, in which he mentioned plans to place bombs outside federal installations in Omaha, Nebraska and Phoenix, Arizona, as well as the Alfred Murrah building in Oklahoma City. He and unnamed associates had concentrated on the last target only when they had run out of time to obtain enough explosives for all three buildings, federal sources told the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*.

The diary also disclosed that individuals had "cased the places", suggesting that the bombers were well aware of the tenants in each of the buildings, including the presence of a children's day-care nursery in Oklahoma. The FBI would neither confirm nor deny the report.

Nevertheless, additional officers from the Federal Protective Services have been sent to guard the federal building in Omaha. The Phoenix agency would not say yesterday whether it had taken similar precautions.

Security was also tightened around the federal prison in El Reno, outside Oklahoma City, for the preliminary hearings against Mr McVeigh, who has refused to give FBI agents anything more than his name, rank and serial number. There have been numerous death threats against him.

The hearing was to focus on where Mr McVeigh should be detained and whether two defence lawyers, who say they fear retribution for their families, would be allowed to withdraw from the case.

Investigators believe that Mr McVeigh, a Gulf War veteran, had shown increasing alienation with the federal Government after the assault on the Branch Davidian compound at Waco in 1993, in which more than 80 cult members, including children, were killed. The 4,800lb bomb in Oklahoma ripped through the Alfred Murrah building on the second anniversary of the raid.

James and Terry Nichols, two brothers from Michigan charged with conspiracy to make bombs — but not linked directly to last week's explosion — were said by FBI agents to be trying to implicate their former lodger.

The previous day, a court affidavit had shown that Terry Nichols, 40, told the FBI of Mr McVeigh's presence in Oklahoma City on Easter Sunday, three days before the explosion, when he had allegedly told his Michigan friend repeatedly: "Something big is going to happen."

Less than 24 hours before the explosion, the two men had visited a storage facility in Kansas where Mr McVeigh had told Mr Nichols: "If I don't come back for a while, you will clean up the storage shed." Subsequently, agents had discovered high-powered weapons and other devices in the basement of the Nichols's nearby home.

In another development President Clinton sent Congress a second round of measures to fight terrorism yesterday as the Senate began consideration of an omnibus Bill expected to speed through both Houses in a month following the Oklahoma bombing. Mr Clinton called for 1,000 new federal agents, tougher penalties and military involvement to prevent terrorists using weapons of mass destruction.

The rescue operation continued yesterday inside the wrecked building. Another 11 bodies were found, bringing the toll so far to 110. A hundred people are still missing.

Call for free trade across Atlantic

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

EUROPE and the United States should investigate ideas for a transatlantic free trade area to ensure that they do not become divided, Sir Leon Brittan, the European Commissioner said yesterday.

Sir Leon's speech came hard on the heels of suggestions from several European politicians, including Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, that an EU-US free trade zone would cement ties between allies whose links are starting to fray after the disappearance of the common enemy of Soviet communism.

Clinton Administration officials have recently begun to acknowledge publicly that links between America and Europe may need repair. However, France wants Europe to compete with America for power and influence and is not keen on boosting cooperation.

Quoting President Kennedy's call for a "Europe united and strong," Sir Leon told American businessmen in Brussels yesterday: "That united Europe is now in the making and will be a full and equal partner for the US as we move into the next century."

Sir Leon did not mention the falling dollar, which is straining transatlantic relations. Jacques Santer, the European Commission President, has criticised the American Government for its "benign neglect" of the dollar which he blames for the rise of the mark, creating difficulties for German exports.

Sir Leon's speech included coded appeals to American policymakers not to rush headlong into enlarging Nato. An independent European defence force should be developed inside Nato, he said, and the shape of Europe's new defence arrangements would not be known until the EU's 1996 review of the Maastricht Treaty had been completed. "It will take time to convince Russia that the eastward expansion of Nato is not a threat to its own security," Sir Leon said.

He urged Washington and Brussels to set up new links between businessmen and to revive the system by which members of American Cabinets met European ministers regularly.

Woolsey: failed to act after Ames scandal

Cold War warriors face sack from CIA

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

JOHN DEUTCH, President Clinton's nominee to be the new CIA director, is promising to reform the battered agency "down to the bare bones", beginning with the swift replacement of a generation of Cold War operatives who had failed to adjust to the new world.

In testimony at his Senate confirmation hearings which chilled the CIA's Langley headquarters in Virginia, Mr Deutch spoke bluntly and boldly about the need for radical changes in an agency that has struggled to find a new post-Cold War role for itself and forfeited almost all congressional support through a succession of scandals.

"There is an enormous morale problem," he said. "I have never in my whole career seen people so disheartened as I have seen at the CIA." Members of the Senate Intelligence Committee seem certain to endorse Mr Deutch's nomination next Wednesday, and promised wholehearted support for his reforms.

Mr Deutch, who is presently Deputy Defence Secretary, said it was time "for a new generation of managers", particularly in the Operations Directorate, which supervises covert espionage activities. The new priorities were countering terrorism, nuclear proliferation and regional conflicts.

Mr Deutch also promised greater accountability and the immediate dismissal of any officer concealing the truth. One reason why James Woolsey, the last CIA director, was forced from office was his failure to dismiss or demote any officer over the Aldrich Ames spy scandal.

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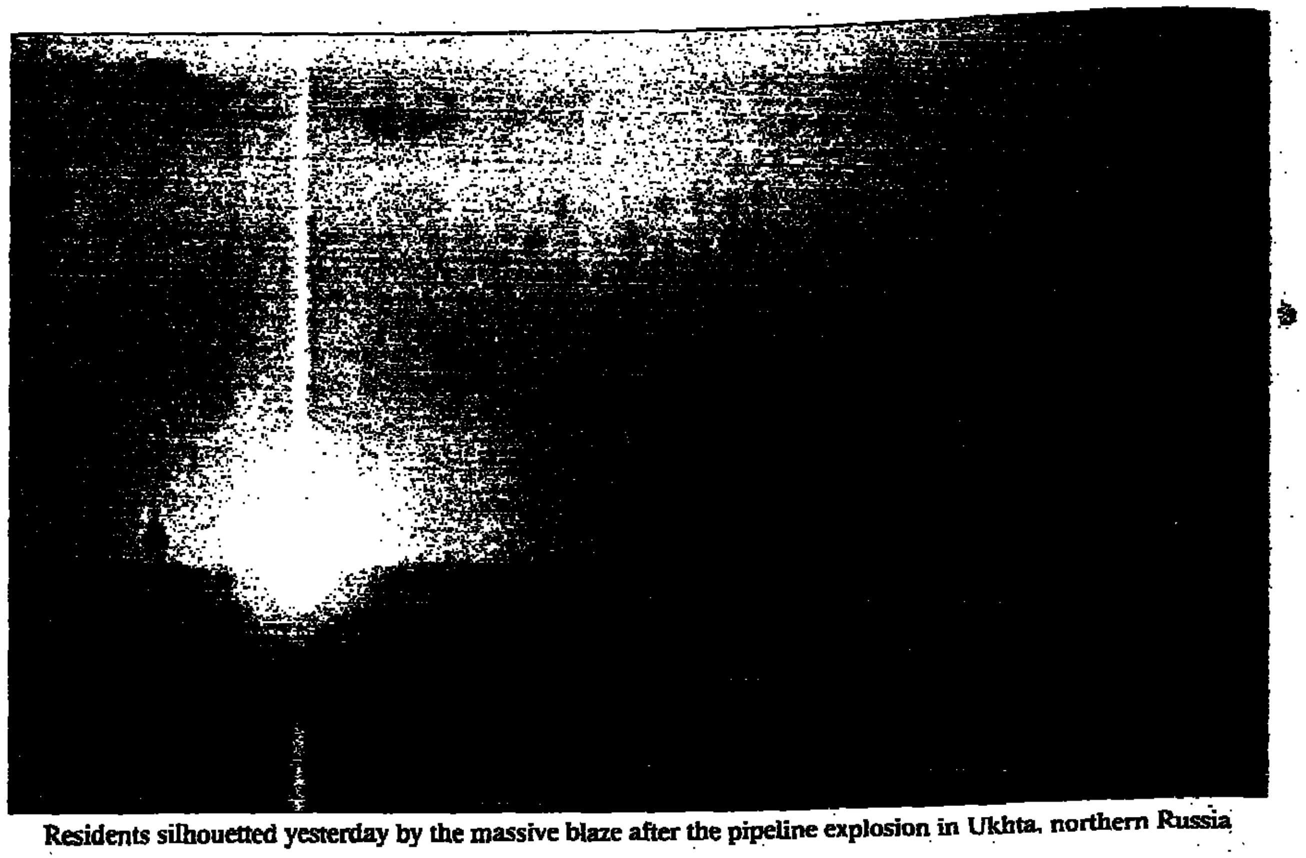
Russia blast highlights gas industry malaise

By Patrick Heren



Residents silhouetted yesterday by the massive blaze after the pipeline explosion in Ukhta, northern Russia

THE explosion early yesterday which ripped apart one of the 55in-diameter pipelines carrying natural gas from the Ukhta region of northern Russia, dramatically illustrates the problems confronting the Russian gas industry.

The 137,000-mile pipeline network operated by RAO Gazprom, the national gas monopoly, was built at great speed in the later Soviet era, most of it under the corrupt regime of President Brezhnev. The lines leak gas into the atmosphere, and are liable to rupture or crack in the extreme cold of winter.

Although much of the export system in particular was built using imported German steel pipe, few of the pipelines were properly coated with PVC: until recently, the Russians coated to a depth of 1mm (1/25in), woefully inadequate by the European or American standard of 3mm. The welded pipeline seams have also proved vulnerable. Russia produced 564 billion cubic metres of gas in 1994, more than a quarter of the world's total, and exported about a fifth of that to customers in Eastern and Western Europe. These exports are vital to the gas supply of Germany, France and Italy, among others. But losses to the atmosphere probably exceeded 10 per cent, at least ten times the rate acceptable in Britain, while other forms of waste, usually related to the low level of prices charged to Russian consumers, may have absorbed another 10-20 per cent.

Western observers are often struck by the seeming insouciance with which the Russian gas industry approaches these difficulties.

Russia is profligate with their natural resources such as gas and oil because they are so abundant. The nation has more than a third of the world's proven reserves of natural gas, and 5 per cent of its oil. Further exploration and the application of modern Western recovery techniques will almost certainly increase those proportions.

The question now is whether this attitude of muddling through is enough. Gazprom is central to the Russian economy, and its power is attested by the elevation of its first chairman, Viktor Chernomyrdin, to be Prime Minister.

The company provides about 40 per cent of Russia's own fuel needs at a price so cheap as to be meaningless, and also earns about £5 billion a year in hard currency exports to Western Europe. Because the gas industry has remained unified under Gazprom's control, it has avoided the collapse of production and exports endured by the Russian oil industry, which fragmented as the Soviet Union collapsed. Moscow hopes to sell 9 per cent of the shares in Gazprom to foreign investors for several billion pounds. It has engaged the British merchant bank, Kleinwort Benson, to manage the deal. The sale has been delayed because no one inside or outside Russia has any idea what Gazprom is worth, or even what it really is. Nor are Western investors very impressed by a management which, whatever its virtues, does not appear to take the integrity of its pipeline network very seriously. The Gazprom shares are on offer because the company and its political masters want Western money and techniques to invest in the next great gas frontier, the Yamal Peninsula of northern Siberia. Again, Western investors are doubtful, both because of the immense cost of exploiting these reserves, and because Gazprom has much cheaper alternatives: it could exploit its existing fields more efficiently; it could buy gas very cheaply from the former Soviet republics of Central Asia; and above all, it could begin to repair and upgrade its pipeline network. The pillar of fire outside Ukhta should be a warning to all Russians that their gas industry must begin to be run with greater care and along more rational lines. Otherwise, European gas companies will be reluctant to expand purchases from Gazprom, and one of the few Russian successes of the post-Soviet era may be sacrificed.

☐ *Patrick Heren is the publisher of European Gas Markets newsletter.*

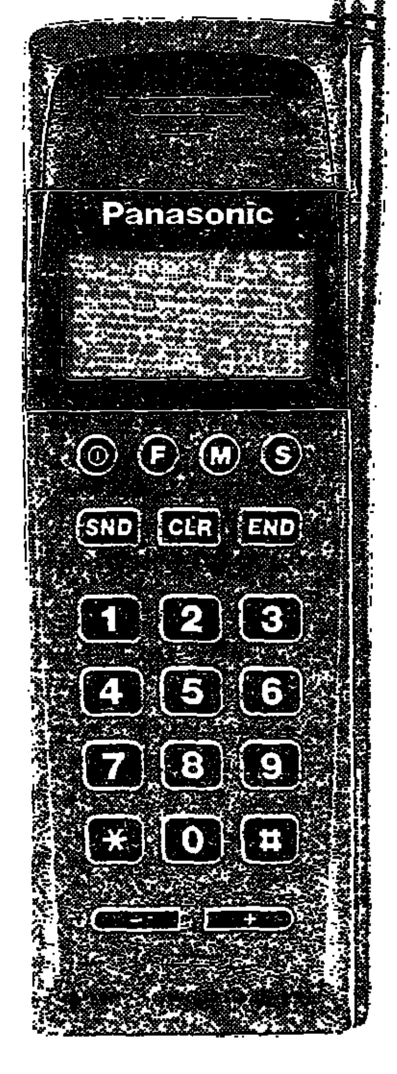
Leading article, page 19

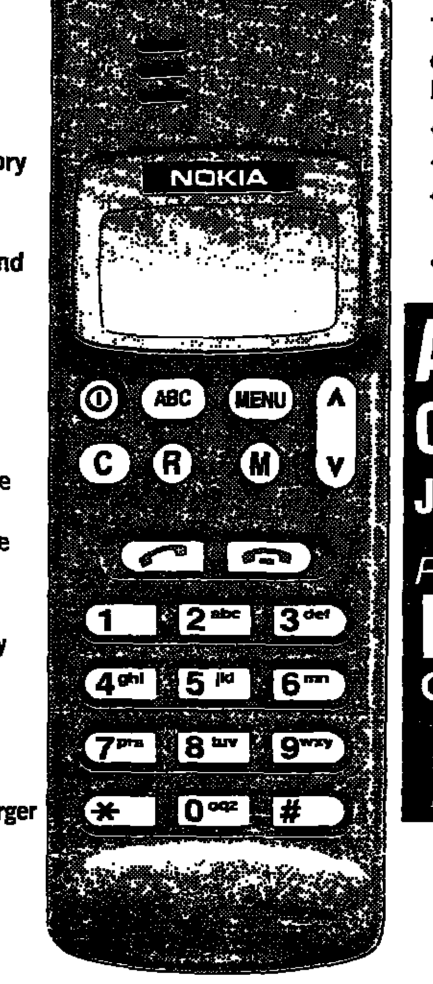
Fears grow over oil leaks

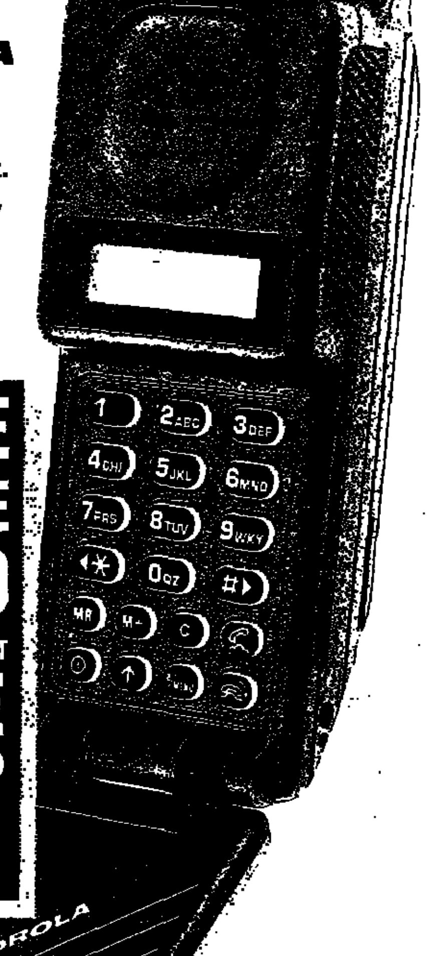
Oslo: Bellona, a Norwegian environmental foundation, yesterday voiced deep concern about environmental damage in northern Russia because of pipeline ruptures.

Frederic Hauge, the leader of Bellona, said his group was watching the Komi region of the Arctic after several pipeline oil leaks had occurred. He said there are pipelines running to 30,000 miles in the area, and that in August last year there were 23 serious accidents involving just one of them. The frozen area on which the oil is situated is now starting to melt and Russian authorities are trying to get rid of the spillage by burning it.

Two members of the group are travelling to northern Russia. Several Western oil companies are believed close to signing an agreement with Russians on oil production in the area, adding to Bellona's fears. *(AFP)*







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WORLD SUMMARY

Freetown lifts ban on politics

Freetown: Captain Valentine Strasser, Sierra Leone's military leader, lifted a ban on political parties yesterday and offered rebels a ceasefire and unconditional peace talks. In a speech marking the anniversary of Sierra Leone's independence from Britain in 1961, Captain Strasser said that he wanted to organise elections for a new President by January.

In the latest fighting, government forces have used a helicopter gunship against rebels of the Revolutionary United Front attacking the heavily defended approaches to the capital. *(Reuter)*

Peking party boss resigns

Peking: Chen Xitong, the head of the Peking Communist Party, has submitted his resignation amid a string of corruption scandals in the municipal government. He is expected to be replaced by a fellow Politburo member, Wei Jianxing. An official in the office of the Peking Mayor denied that Mr Chen had resigned. *(Reuter)*

Owen doubt on Bosnia ceasefire

Athens: Lord Owen, the European Union mediator on former Yugoslavia, said there was little chance that the Contact Group would extend the Bosnian ceasefire due to expire next Monday on time. He forecast a nervous period of about a week before any renewal of the truce. *(Reuter)*

Letters, page 19

Mourners ill at Siberian funeral

Moscow: More than 80 people were taken to hospital with food poisoning, 13 of them in a serious condition, after attending a funeral in Siberia. A medical team and medicine were sent to Pervomayski, a mining town, after the group fell ill, possibly from eating meat dishes served at the ceremony. *(AFP)*

Council of Europe suspends Turkey

By Michael Binyon
Diplomatic Editor

TURKEY announced a boycott of the Council of Europe yesterday after being suspended by the Strasbourg-based organisation for its invasion of northern Iraq.

The Turkish Government yesterday denounced the resolution suspending its membership as of an "unacceptable nature, inappropriate, unfair and never applicable". The Turkish parliamentary delegation in Strasbourg said that it would no longer take part in activities and would refuse all co-operation with the 34-member Council.

The Council of Europe, seen as the yardstick for measuring and upholding democracy in Europe, called for a peaceful solution to the Kurdish problem and demanded democratic reforms.

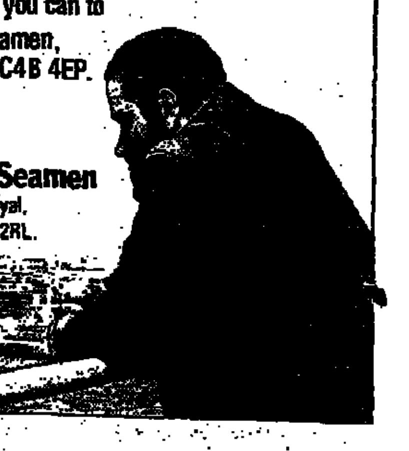
The Turkish Cabinet angrily insisted that "no entity has the right to dictate to the Turkish parliament", and noted that Tansu Ciller, the Prime Minister, would set her own timetable in preparing a democratisation programme.

Turkey has been criticised frequently in the past for human rights abuses by the Council, but only Greece has had its membership suspended — soon after the colonels' coup in 1967. Turkey attaches considerable symbolic importance to its membership, which it regards as acceptance of its Western and democratic orientation.

Yesterday's action is likely to strengthen the move in the European Parliament to veto the recently negotiated customs union between Turkey and the European Union in protest at Ankara's treatment of the Kurds.

The Council yesterday approved a resolution ordering Turkey's suspension unless it showed "significant progress" in withdrawing from Iraq before the EU summit in Cannes on June 26.

Turkey insisted yesterday that the operation against the PKK Kurdish guerrillas in Iraq was against terrorism and would be limited. Ankara has announced that it has withdrawn 23,000 of the 35,000 troops sent in.



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هكذا من الاصل

Hutu militiamen prevent children fleeing death camp

Sam Kiley reports from Kibeho camp in Rwanda on the torment of young refugees who are too terrified to take three short steps to freedom

NGIRA ABENYE slipped past a group of Hutu extremists arguing with members of the Rwandan Government, his eyes full of tears. Then the 11-year-old boy buried his face in the chest of the nearest friendly female he could see.

Behind him another two dozen children looked on, survivors of last weekend's massacre of thousands of people by Rwandan government soldiers. They dared not leave the former medical centre in Kibeho camp, even with the assurance of United Nations peacekeepers, foreign diplomats and journalists. Held as human shields by Hutu extremists who barricaded themselves into the hospital, the children feared a machete blow to the back of the head if they took the three steps to freedom.

Forty-two corpses were thrown out of the camp the day before. The victims were apparently killed after expressing a wish to leave. "All the people in my family have been killed. Three died outside [during the massacre which came with the Government's clearing of the camp] and four inside here," Ngira sobbed into the chest of Aloysia Inyumba, the Rwandan Women's Affairs Minister. Ms Inyumba spoke to a woman sitting with her two children and begged her to release the smallest one. "Please, we will look after her. There are white people here. They will make sure that no harm comes to her," she said.

"Don't talk to this person," the woman's older daughter snapped, perhaps fearing for her safety. Food and water were cut to Kibeho's 800,000 residents last Friday. Since the relocation of most of the rest to their home areas, an estimated 2,000 people remain in the hospital, and have had no access to food or water, other than rain, for five days.

Seth Sindashoga, a Hutu and Minister of the Interior, tried to assure camp members that they would not, as they claimed, be murdered as soon as they got home. UN officials did likewise, while peacekeepers waved at the women and children to climb aboard Red Cross lorries.

A handful of Hutus staggered past the corpse of a woman and the flyblown body of a stillborn child. The rest stood fast.

The arguing went on for most of the day as children desperate to leave cast nervous looks over their shoulders to a double-storey building when the hardline menfolk had gathered. "I want to go and get my friend," Ngira suddenly announced, and slipped back into the throng. Fearful that he would be attacked by the hardliners for his "treachery", I followed him into the ground floor of the filthy building, past scores of women and children with gangrenous wounds.

He vanished for a few minutes and then I found him cowering behind a man who yelled that we should all clear out.

Ngira met my eyes and slipped away while I confronted the extremist. The boy's chances of living through last night, after touching the "enemy", were small.

"You wait and see. There will be more bodies tomorrow morning," said Patrick Mazimkaka, the Rwandan Youth Minister.

Rwanda announces massacre inquiry

FROM SAM KILEY IN KIBEHO CAMP

RWANDA'S Government yesterday took a big step towards restoring its domestic and international reputation, announcing an international inquiry into the massacre at Kibeho camp last weekend.

Speaking at the camp, President Bizimungu said that an international commission "causes us pain".

"But in the end truth will win. And for national reconciliation, we need the truth," he said.

The Government has bitterly contested Australian Army reports that soldiers counted 4,050 dead after last Saturday's killings, claims by Médecins Sans Frontières that its medical staff saw "thousands" of bodies, and the UN's recently revised figure of about 2,000 dead.

"We want to know where the bodies are. We are going to dig them up — all of them," the President insisted. He said he would ask Canada, France, the US, The Netherlands, Britain, Germany, the Organisation of African Unity and the United Nations to send experienced investigators to find out, with a government appointee, what happened at Kibeho.

The move comes after the European Union threatened to cut aid worth 6.7 million ecus (£8 million) to the Government, which has been in power less than a year since it drove out the Hutu extremist regime which organised the genocide of a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

Nearly 200,000 Hutus who were living in camps in southwest Rwanda have been dispersed to their home areas. Many fear revenge attacks by Tutsis. Yesterday's announcement of an independent inquiry will go some way towards reassuring them that this was an isolated incident.

A traditional praise singer honours President Mandela in Pretoria yesterday as South Africans celebrate the first year of democracy

Mandela marks first year with prisoners' amnesty

From Michael Hamlyn in pretoria

PRESIDENT MANDELA celebrated the first anniversary of South Africa's freedom election yesterday by cutting the sentences of tens of thousands of prisoners.

All prisoners, with the exception of child abusers, will receive a remission of a quarter of their sentences, up to a maximum of six months.

The President announced a second amnesty, a full remission of sentence for anybody still in jail who had been charged solely with possession before December 6, 1993, of arms, ammunition or explosives associated with past political conflicts, irrespective of political affiliation.

"We hope we are sending a message to all prisoners that they should mend their ways and make a fresh start," the President said. "We appeal to society to help them to resettle in communities as responsible and law-abiding citizens."

In truth, it is the prisoners left behind and their hard-pressed guards who will benefit most. Conditions are overcrowded with jails holding three times their capacity.

The news was greeted calmly in Pretoria by a crowd of 5,000 pressed up against a fence of razor wire below his platform on the lawns around the statue of Louis Botha, the Boer general and later Prime Minister. Earlier, the singers and dancers warming up the audience had been all but invisible, screened by the array of dignitaries. The celebrations, part of the commemoration of Freedom Day, now a public holiday, were held in brilliant autumn sunshine just below the Union Buildings.

Similar scenes were witnessed on the Grand Parade, the great open space in front of the old City Hall in Cape Town. There, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, head of the Anglican Church, who coined the expression "the Rainbow People" to describe the country's population, yesterday redescribed them, saying, in Afrikaans: "We are of course now the technicolour people." Earlier he asked the congregation in St George's Cathedral: "Who will ever forget those long queues snaking their way patiently to the polling booths? The world will never forget those images of the day apartheid died and freedom was born. How do you describe being born again?" He asked his congregation to applaud F. W. de Klerk, the Second Deputy President, the main speaker at the Grand Parade.

The only sour note came from Durban, where the Inkatha Freedom Party objected that there was nothing to be pleased about. Noisy protesters marched through the city centre, to complain about being cheated of international mediation over provincial government powers.

In Pretoria, the Afrikaner Volksfront of hard-line white rightwingers, flew its "freedom flag" at half-mast. "We regard it as a day of sorrow and regret," an official said.

White supremacists lay low in veld

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN VENTERSDORP

AS SOUTH AFRICANS yesterday celebrated the first anniversary of democratic elections, they would have recalled that a year ago this week the country was in the grip of a murderous bombing campaign by right-wing extremists. Twelve months on, the extremists are bowed and humiliated in the face of majority rule and leaders of the white Right seek reconciliation with their black compatriots.

A year of democracy seems to have tempered the worst excesses of the far Right. Nowhere are the changes that the Right has undergone better illustrated than at Ventersdorp, in Western Transvaal, home to the neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) and Eugene Terre'Blanche, its leader. The headquarters are no longer distinguished by neo-Nazi flags, the sandbags and bomb-proof iron screen have been removed, and once familiar scenes of khaki-clad bearded males shouting obscenities have become distant memories. Inside the small office, uniformed supporters are now almost polite. White residents in the small farming town said that the AWB had lost favour.

There are 25 AWB members on trial accused of killing 20 people and injuring 45 others, including the *Times* photographer, Simon Walker. AWB members testify against each other and, in a humiliating climbdown, Mr Terre'Blanche has been forced to negotiate with the Government to try to secure political amnesty for the accused.

But as President Mandela has acknowledged, it would be premature to write off the right-wing threat, particularly after the assassination last November of Professor Johan Heyns, a former leader of the Dutch Reform Church, who called for reconciliation with blacks. All eyes are now on local government elections this November, when the last bricks of the apartheid system will be removed.

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The secret of a successful street party

As VE-Day approaches, can you hold an authentic Forties-style knees-up in a modern city?

MARGOT NORMAN

Have you organised *your VE-Day* street party yet? Got the *bunting* ordered, and the trestles, and the Vera Lynn tapes, rounded up the neighbours and drawn-up the bar rota? No? What do you mean, you haven't even given it a thought? Brace up, citizen: this is your national duty. Apart from paying taxes, giving a *jolly street party* is the one thing your Government is *asking of you in* 1995.

Obediently, but with some misgivings, your local council is putting out a message on the lines of this one from Westminster *City Council*: "The city council is keen to encourage residents to have street parties and organise other events in commemoration of VE-Day ... if you would like more information about holding a street *party, please contact Maurice* Pillinger on 0171-798 2390."

The misgivings are understandable, especially in London. If every street did its national duty, half the guests would be run over and the other half would be overcome by exhaust fumes from the *traffic jams. So far, though*, Mr Pillinger's telephone has *been pretty quiet. There is to* be a big children's party in Oxford Street on the Monday morning, but otherwise only nine or ten street party-givers have called him.

The story is similar in Hammersmith and Fulham, where Dee Whittle is *organising some tremendous* knees-ups for pensioners, (*complete* with sandbags, searchlights and sirens, professional jitterbuggers and ration books to serve as entry tickets), and overseeing a couple of children's parties on council estates. But these are semi-official junkets; from the gentrified streets of the borough she has heard not a squeak. "They don't seem to be *interested.* We've heard nothing from them about street parties, no applications for road closures or anything," she says. "Well, I *suppose they're too* young to remember *the Blitz, and anyway* they're not real Londoners, they're from Sussex and Surrey. It's working- class people and the elderly who want to join in around *here.*"

Up to a point, Ms Whittle. If *the activities of the* newly-formed VE-Day committee in gentrified Aldbourne Road are anything to go by, the middle classes in Hammersmith and Fulham may be gearing up for a last-minute party push.

"She's wrong about the gentry, we do want to do *something, and we've just started*," says committee member Sa*rah Johnson.* "By the way, where do you get bunting?" Mrs Johnson's head is buzzing with organisational details: there are rotas for everything, most crucially the bar, but also for baked potatoes, chicken wings, children's face painting and coleslaw-making duty.

One *neighbour* is a caterer so she's good at estimating numbers of chicken wings. The merchant banker's wife is a great organiser, so she's got the owners of gas barbecues on parade and their sausage allocations worked out: everyone seems to be pulling together with *admirable if* unaccustomed neighbourliness.

A few burning questions have arisen, of course. Wine or beer? (*Answer*: both.) Do we sing the National Anthem? (Answer: maybe not, since the only people in the street with direct knowledge of the war are Poles, Serbs and Croats, and one can't be sure how well that would go down ... we'll drink a toast to the Queen *instead.) Will the above-mentioned* war veterans join in? (Answer: we hope so.)

What sort of face-painting would be appropriate? (Answer: The simplest and most recognisable wartime flourish *would be a Hitler moustache*, but of course that won't do. A Churchillian cigar? Er, maybe.)

Finally, but crucially: how do we stop the children from getting run over? (Answer: put up some sort of barricade, plonk the bouncy castle in the *middle of the road, and thank* goodness that part of the street is a cul-de-sac anyway.)

Had she received the anticipated barrage of requests for street party road closures, Ms Whittle was going to say no to a lot of them on traffic grounds. In Westminster, Mr Pillinger and the police agreed to say no to parties on bus routes, yes to those in residential side streets. I'm not sure *what they would say to all* those who, like me, live in the latter but have seen them turn into high-speed rat runs as London's traffic has reached saturation and been forced, like water, to run through all the city's nooks and crannies.

The third thing is that nobody in these streets has even asked, because the traffic would preclude a party anyway.

You know, we *shouldn't let* the blasted traffic be such a *party-pooper. The police and* council officials shouldn't have to feel *nervous* about the build-up of private cars — and the associated antisocial feelings building up in their frustrated drivers. Bus operators should not be planning to cut services, as they are reputedly doing for VE weekend, because of congestion from private cars. It is all back to front.

There is a simple and authentic way round this: we should just mark VE-Day by *recreating the traffic conditions* that existed at the time. That would mean cutting private cars out of the picture completely (the phrase "complete cessation of private motoring" catches my eye in the wartime section of *A History of London Transport*, by Barker and Robbins).

Just for the weekend, London could be wonderful, every street a great place for a party. *Perhaps, having seen* how good it could be, Londoners *would decide to keep it that* way. But then, of course, we would need a *proper*, integrated public transport *system*, like the one created by the 1933 London Passenger Transport Act, which put a stop to the chaotic, privatised free-for-all then obtaining.

When that Act was brought in, there were only 200,000 private cars registered in the London traffic area. Yet the authorities already recognised that this would rapidly be*come a problem. The excellent* public transport system resulting from their legislation kept London working throughout the war. With the present chaotic arrangements, how would we ever have won?

CHRIS HARRIS

Street celebrations for the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977. The problem on VE-Day may well be keeping the children away from the traffic

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For a few dollars more you can now join the privileged high-flyers in Russian Business Class

Not all air travellers are created equal

ANNE McELVOY

It was too good to resist. For a *mere $70 extra*, I could be one of the first passengers to fly the three and a half thousand miles to my Siberian destination not, in the usual bracing tradition of Russian air travel, with a flapping seat-belt, a wizened, greasy chicken leg for sustenance and the optional extra of an unannounced route change *via Chelyanbinsk, but Business* Class — guaranteed, said the brochure, "to bring you a certain comfort in the Russian skies".

Business Class is a new arrival in Russia, although the principle of better treatment for the few is not. The Communists introduced a system of special passes, with a variety *of complicated colour codings* allowing access to restaurants, *shops and ticket offices closed* to the proletariat. Today, the hundreds of advisers, guards and hangers-on in the Yeltsinocracy can still wave their magic passes imperiously to jump queues — I recently saw one being wielded to secure the rapid purchase of a bra in *the busy western lingerie shop* on the Novi Arbat.

Travel is no exception. Every provincial airport has a "Deputies' Waiting Room" to ease the strain on Members of Parliament visiting their constituencies. But the market has caught up here too — for a solid bribe, anyone can escape the grime and bustle of the *usual waiting lounge and* waltz into the deputies' room *to have their luggage handled* by a porter, and their passage on to the plane smoothed by solicitous staff.

My carrier was Air Baikal, one of the regional airlines to split off from the Aeroflot fleet in the past few years. "You'll get a special bus to the plane, *separate stairs from the rest of* the passengers and we will *assure that your seat is stable*," said the ground staff. Russians have never lost the Soviet habit of defining luxury not in its own right, but in terms of things denied to *hoi polloi*.

Aeroflot wrinkles its nose at the term *Business* Class — probably *because the word "business" is* associated with gangland killings in today's Russia — and calls its special service to St Petersburg "Comfort Class", which is at least an honest admission that the other passengers are flying in pronounced discomfort.

A shade guiltily. I made my way — as the sole passenger booked in guaranteed comfort to Irkutsk — on to the empty bus, while all the others were herded on to the crowded one behind. I could feel the glances of hatred burning into my back as I mounted the gleaming steel steps at the front of the plane and they were shep*herded en masse to the rickety* rear ones. This is the sort of behaviour which speeds up revolutions.

Still, as generations of Communist functionaries have discovered, it does not take much time to get used to privilege. Sipping my glass of Molda*vian wine and finding that* the stewardess did not balk at the *request for an extra glass of* mineral water, I settled down to read one of eight Russian newspapers proffered on a tray. They turned on the music above my head, which went:

"Boy, boy, boy, My only hero, Boy, boy, boy, Take me to Magadan" and so on for three hundred miles.

Irina, the stewardess, was very *disappointed* when I asked for it to be turned off: "It's *one* of our favourite cassettes," she huffed, before remembering herself and adding: "But of course, you can choose."

There was, inevitably, chicken for lunch. But what a chicken! Properly cooked and breaded and served with fresh *vegetables, after a salmon* starter, and a peach mousse to follow. I was dazzled by such indulgence, in love with Russian air travel and dreading getting off at the other end.

Russia is a crafty country *with a habit of catching out* those who make predictions. Twelve months ago on this very page I concluded: "It will be a few years yet before they have in-flight movies, loo paper and life-jackets on the flight to Krasnoyarsk." Reader, I was wrong.

So the film was *Rambo*, dubbed into Russian and with *Georgian subtitles* which this business traveller could have *done without, but it was much* appreciated by the teenage boys in economy, who kept pushing back the curtain to peek. The loo roll was so wondrously plentiful for Russia that I accepted the chief steward's advice to take the rest with me.

"I'm not sure how the paper supplies are where you're going," he added.

But *all good things end*, and far too soon we arrived in Irkutsk, at two in the morning. At the airport hotel, my Business Class status had no effect whatsoever on the two elderly ladies guarding reception. What sort of time was this to be turning up looking for a room, grumbled one. The other was *too busy* fretting about her pension rights to *fetch the key for a room* and insisted I share a triple with two snoring grandmothers.

Thinking longingly of the limitless glasses of water proffered by Air Baikal, I later plucked up courage to ask one *of the reception ladies* for a cold drink. "Go back to bed," she said. "You're *annoying* me." Above the clouds these days, we can become cosseted members of the elite. But back on terra firma, we remain down-trodden proles.

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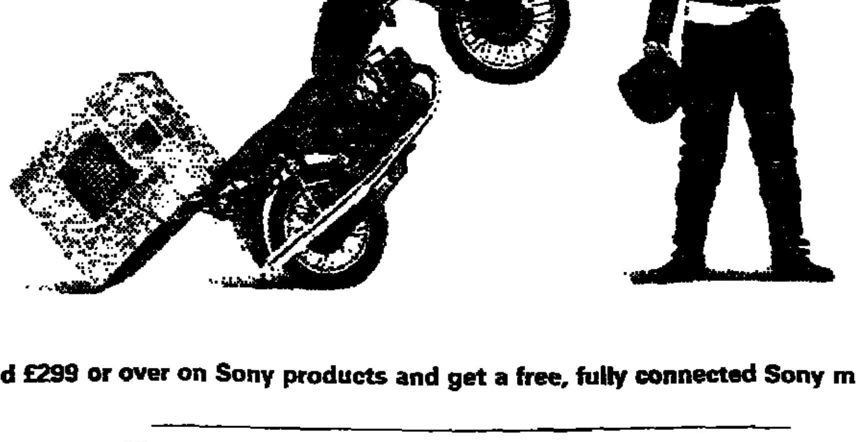

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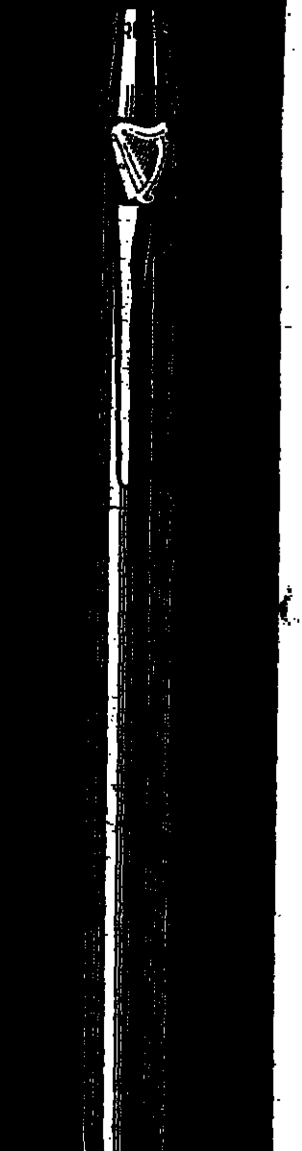

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The new deputy governor of the Bank of England on damning reviews, office carpets — and Center Parcs

'Hours of executive time are wasted on breakfasts in trains'

CHRIS HARRIS

Davies: "I did a Gazza on my knee. John Birt carried me off. The surgeon said: 'Not worth repairing the ligament on anyone over 40,' which depressed me."

I used to think there must be two Howard Davieses: one, the grey ex-Treasury suit who ran the Confederation of British Industry; the other, the caustic, witty young cove whose book reviews I would sometimes file under "Reviews, Damning" and who once referred to a writer named Neasa MacErlean as "obviously an anagram, but I can't solve it". Then I discovered they were the same invisible man, sniping at hapless authors while never appearing at literary gatherings.

We met this week on the 8am train from St Pancras, bound for Nottingham, as he had to make a pastoral visit to the Center Parc in Sherwood Forest. "Have you brought your trunks?" he said. The East Midlands lay under a dismal grey pall of sky. But at the Center Parc people were bicycling among the fir trees in anoraks, imagining themselves in Scandinavia or Canada, and under the dome of the Aquaparc the temperature was a constant 87F.

The Bank of England's new deputy governor, who will replace Rupert Pennant-Rea, professes himself cross that *The Guardian*'s Pass Notes and others characterise him as "least likely to say, 'Check out my office carpet, lovey' ". Perhaps he ought to start making passes at girls at dinner parties, he said. "A boy has his pride."

At first sight he is taken for an unusually lean and sprightly old-timer: bald on top, remaining hair snow-white. This deceptive appearance may well have aided his progress in becoming such an *éminence grise* at 44. His head is small, his skin cherubic, his blue eyes sharp and feline. The *Telegraph*'s resident Oxford don, Niall Ferguson, writes that not only does Davies not suffer fools gladly, "he does not even suffer quite intelligent people gladly [ie, Ferguson] if they disagree with him over the ERM". The two had a prolonged spat one day at Canary Wharf, which neither has forgotten or forgiven.

As a former McKinsey man, Davies was precise about time and motion. He boarded his train at two minutes to eight. He had to prepare an after-dinner speech to knitwear manufacturers (already drafted, but still requiring insertion of jokes about the GDP) so we could not begin until we rattled into Kettering. When on trains, he said, he always counted the number of people actually working: "Hours of executive time in this country are wasted by people having huge breakfasts in trains."

He was suffering from a bronchial infection, having jumped into the Brecon and Monmouth Canal over Easter to fish out his younger son Archie, who had fallen in when leaping from bank to boat. After two nights in hospital with a gashed temple, Archie made a complete recovery, while his father had been coughing viscerally ever since. This dip into Welsh tourism had been useful as he had to address the CBI in Wales and instead of being just another one of these uppity metropolitan folk it had given him some valley cred.

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW

> 'My career bumps along, just doing the most interesting thing that comes up at the time'

Politicians, he said, attach far more importance to the CBI chief's anecdotal reports ("I've talked to 18 businesses in the past two weeks and they all tell me . . .") than to any survey. He was bound for Leicester that afternoon, to observe how Next has hauled itself around from a £430 million loss in 1991 to £100 million profit last year. The Center Parc interlude was to observe the short-break tourist market, and to find out how many foreigners go there (about half of 1 per cent).

When he was reviewing for the *Literary Review*, Emma Soames told Davies he was the bad boy of the fiction pages: "You haven't found a single book you liked in 18 months." So what is on his bedside table? Will Hutton's new book — "good, but annoying, overstates his case". Graham Robb's very good biography of Balzac — "my great literary love". And (in his briefcase) the new Timothy Mo: *Brownout on Breadfruit Boulevard*. Isn't the opening chapter absolutely filthy? "It is." Mo was an Oxford contemporary of his: "But he was the sort of person who went into the Bodleian as it opened, and left when it closed."

Davies, by contrast, was the sort who edited *Cherwell* and performed in OUDS, specialising in old men: Mr Hardcastle in *She Stoops*, Erpingham in Orton's *The Erpingham Camp*, Old Polonius in *Hamlet*, and one drag role, Madame Pernelle in *Tartuffe*.

As an only child in Manchester he fished for sticklebacks in the unprettily named River Irk, and was a scholarship boy at Manchester Grammar School, where he founded and edited the school paper, *The Mancunian*. He then got a scholarship to Merton, worth £60 a year. His history tutor, John Roberts, allowed him to switch to French, as long as he did some historical research while spending a year in Marseilles.

He might have gone into journalism and applied to the BBC, which did not answer his letter. "But I have always regarded journalism as just a hobby. I think that's how everyone should regard it really." Instead he joined the Foreign Office and struck lucky: Paris. But it was a protocol post. "And for a northern grammar-school boy with a rebellious bent, to spend his time organising royal visits . . ." He soon applied to get out, but stayed on with Nico Henderson, living on the Left Bank. Unknown to him his future wife, at that time IRN's Paris correspondent, was there too, married to a Frenchman.

He says: "My career bumps along, just doing the most interesting thing that comes up at the time." But in Paris he had a Damascene conversion. "I had so little to do, and I would meet these clever frogs who'd been in business, and I felt extremely ignorant. An arts degree from Oxford is assumed by the FO to be enough for the rest of your life." So he took exams to go to business school, intending to join the Treasury, and parleyed his way into a Harkness fellowship at Stanford. Then back to the Treasury in the 1970s . . .

At this point his voice faltered, his brain audibly whirred, and he said: "I've just remembered!" (He had been brooding over Niall Ferguson and that spat.) "I didn't have an argument with him about the ERM at all. I remember things exactly. It was about education policy, and whether the Government should skew higher education to be more vocational in its university funding: not subsidising people to do what they want, but to take strategic decisions and invest capital where skills are most needed. Of course Ferguson as a historian found this quite against his interests, so we had a furious argument.

"Furthermore, three months later he was on *Question Time*, produced by my wife: and was asked an education question — and he produced my arguments, word for word. I sat there open-mouthed at his effrontery."

So now, "by mysterious processes", he is invited to join the Bank. Not too much of a mystery: he worked with Eddie George at the Treasury, and the Bank's court of external directors all know him well, as do the PM and the Chancellor. His present salary (£156,000 plus £20,000 from GKN and £6,000 from NatWest) will probably be matched by the Bank.

As for his erstwhile membership of the Islington Labour Party, that does him no harm either. "It's not at all clear whether I was ever recruited. I certainly applied: I was friends with Chris Smith [now Shadow Heritage Secretary], who lived in the same house. But when the forms arrived, I had left my trade union, the First Division Association. So it is a moot point whether I ever actually became a member."

When people ask him, as he goes around, "Does the CBI have sufficient Labour Party contacts?" the answer is firmly yes. "The signals going out from Blair's office are that they ought to get alongside businessmen wherever they can, so for the CBI it's more a case of fending them off."

Davies can no longer join John Birt and Greg Dyke on Friday afternoons in their five-a-side football. "I did a Gazza on my knee. Jumped up to head the ball, landed on my left leg, heard a snap and crumpled. John Birt carried me off. The surgeon said: 'Full house. Two cartilages and a snapped ligament; not worth repairing the ligament on anyone over 40,' which really depressed me." Cricket remains: he plays for Barnes next Sunday.

Later I rang him at his Holiday Inn: did he have any *esprits de l'escalier*, as we didn't seem to have talked much about interest rates or the single currency? But what he told me about was Center Parcs' amazing Jungle River, where the water flows under a wall and twists and turns so the swimmers can whoosh through the woods. He just wished he'd brought his trunks.

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Don't turn victory into a lottery

Cashing in on Churchill's papers is a disgrace, says **Norman Stone**

Next week, the country will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of Victory in Europe. Dignified elderly men and women will be parading with flags, to remember what they once went through, and what, under Churchill's leadership, the country achieved. Our own role was heroic. And how do we now, as a country in the G7, choose to celebrate this 50th anniversary? Why, by selling off Churchill in a raffle.

Churchill's papers are enormous, spanning his whole long life from the mid-Victorian Empire to Harold Wilson's little England. He wrote energetically and constantly, working over his manuscripts with great care, and since he had many interests and friends all over the place, the sheer volume of paper is such that a special archive at Churchill College, Cambridge, was established mainly by the public purse to house it all. An archivist was employed to go through it, and the biography took 20 years to complete. The centrepiece is of course the Second World War, Churchill's own finest hour, and arguably this country's as well.

Now the National Lottery is supplying £13 million to a few Churchill heirs for this collection. It is true that private people who had had places of prominence under communist or fascist regimes kept their own archives secret with a view to selling them later, but there is no comparable practice anywhere else, and historians of the future will be reaching, as so often, for Gore Vidal's description of modern England as "vulgaria". What will they make of the sale of Churchill's archives in a tombola stall?

A tombola stall is no place to sell Churchill's archives

In principle, the state papers of government, or perhaps we should say Crown servants, belong in the public record. They had after all public careers and were paid for by the Crown. Incidentally, where these papers are not housed privately they are taken over with great care by the Public Record Office in Kew, but there are many other commendable archives — especially the Imperial War Museum.

The keepers of these papers are a rare breed — knowledgeable, self-effacing, efficient in a bumbling sort of way. My own impression is that we look after our archives better than any other country in Europe. Given the volume of the record of the British Empire, and a historical past which includes much more medieval paper than is true of other countries, this is quite an achievement. Lottery money should go to help it, not to punish it. There is of course a big problem: how do you divide the private aspects of such public archives from the state ones? Which papers can legitimately be held back by the family and heirs? And is there any way to force former statesman to hand over their papers?

In America, presidential and government papers are supposed to be in the public domain, though charitable law is such that former presidents can set up their own foundations to house their papers if they prefer. In Germany and Austria the preference has been for state papers to be handed over to public archives, although it may be necessary to approach the families.

In France, the position seems to be rather messy, with state papers in principle handed over to archives but with many remaining inaccessible in private hands. There seems to be some mystery, for instance, about de Gaulle's papers. One curious result is that some private papers have simply disappeared. In Moscow there is a "special archive", consisting mostly of French private papers originally taken by the Vichy police and then secreted by the Nazis until captured by the Russians.

The British practice used to be what you would expect of this country in its good old days. A way of doing simply emerged from a common code of decent practice and a certain level of individual prosperity. Decent men — mainly peers — kept their papers and made them available as and when. Gladstone, who was rich, housed his own papers for the nation and even included an extraordinarily frank diary, which has only just been decoded, brilliantly, by Colin Matthew, who is now the editor of *The Dictionary of National Biography*.

The third Marquess of Salisbury followed much the same line, always making papers available to serious historians, many of whom were treated with much learned interest and very well entertained. Sir John Plumb, working in the Walpole archives at Houghton, had a wonderful time. Sometimes, if the family could not afford the upkeep or did not feel competent, papers would be handed over to a public institution.

Another convention used to be that a Sir Humphrey figure would discuss with the exhausted autobiographer what should properly be handed to the Public Record Office and what might be kept back. As usual in this country, these messy, uncodified practices, relying on decent behaviour, worked quite well. The rot may have set in, as ever, with Lloyd George, but even he made over the bulk of his papers, including love letters, for the future splendid ministrations of John Grigg.

And now we have this business of a lottery, buying Churchill's papers from his heirs. It is a scandal. The papers mainly belong in the public record already. A building was put up to house them. This transaction sets a depressing precedent for the future, and will encourage politicians to keep back private papers with which in effect to blackmail their successors. Raffling the national record, and especially Churchill's part in it, is a disgrace. What next? HMS *Belfast* as Japanese love hotel?

The author is professor of modern history at Oxford.

"ANY OFFERS...?"

Peter Brookes 28 iv 95

Forking out for Morton

Well, Sir Alastair, whom shall we blame now for the hole in the budget?

Bernard Levin

Everything comes to him who waits. Or, to put it another way, if you go round a circle, you will sooner or later to find yourself where you started. Now, let me assure you (I hope most of you didn't need telling) that I am not particularly amused when my neighbour's baby has fallen out of the window and at the same time his cat has been sick on his brand new carpet, so when I tell you that only a few days ago I was to be found screaming with laughter, and not any kind of laughter, but the kind that is called *Schadenfreude*, my friends are entitled to an explanation for my mirth.

Stifling my giggles, I comply. For Sir Alastair Morton (when did he get the gong, and — more to the point — why?) has come back into the headlines, the sidelines, the deadlines — nay, the laughter-lines, and I have lived to double up with laughter at the very thought of him. For it was I who repeatedly put the soap in the place where he would be sure to fall over it, I who went about with thumb to nose whenever his tunnel was being discussed, I who kept on saying that it would never be built, or if built, never used, I whom Morton would have happily strangled, I who made sure, in my column, that every setback, every mistake, every shouting-match was highlighted. And what glorious times I had!

Those who have only recently come to *The Times* are entitled to at least a less hysterical summary of what has gone before. Briefly, then, Sir Alastair ("Blame someone else" — that was the slogan I used in tormenting him over his hole in the ground) was the *fons* and *origo* of the Channel Tunnel as we see it. (Or don't, of course.) It was he who urged it, he who promoted it, he who found the suckers to put the money down it, he who screamed when things were going ("Blame someone else") wrong, he who found more suckers with more money when the over-run turned out to be roughly double what had been forecast, he who staged the remarkable meeting between the Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher, and President Mitterrand, when they shook hands far down in the tunnel, he who bullied and shouted and wheedled and demanded and found even *more* money for *more* suckers to put up, and he who finally looked upon his work and found it good.

It was at that point that I stopped baiting him. I could not deny — nor did I wish to deny — that there was a hole in the ground through which trains would shortly be rumbling back and forth, and sooner or later I might be a passenger, if only out of curiosity. The finances of the whole caboodle were nothing to do with me (you didn't, surely, think that I would have put money into the thing?), though I should have realised what was happening, when throughout the country there was a substantial and sinister run on noughts.

Presumably the shareholders were satisfied with their returns, the likelihood of a demand for more cash upfront was thought absurd by the banks, all 225 of them (though very few — as you would expect from the banks — were properly monitoring what was going on), and all was hunky-dory.

Before I continue with the main story, I should make clear that I was no johnny-come-lately with after-the-event threats of doom. From the beginning, I sensed that one of the biggest financial disasters in modern history was looming, and I didn't just murmur it over the dinner-table and then say "I told you so". Hark to the headlines and the summaries of what was to come, and then tell me whether my columns on the subject were added afterwards.

"An open-ended commitment: Bernard Levin wonders at the optimism that continues to bury money in an unneeded tunnel." Or "Banks going down the drain: Bernard Levin marshals figures to back his argument that the Channel tunnel is doomed to be a multi-billion white elephant." "Splendid opening for the merchants of disaster: Bernard Levin finds a link between the Channel tunnel and the City's latest financial fiasco."

And that was nothing compared to what I wrote when I got into my stride with 1,500 words at my beck. For instance: I deliberately wrote a column that was absurd, sprinkling crazy numbers everywhere. Then:

> I am more given than most to believing my own lunacy, but even I would have giggled if anyone had told me that my most extreme exaggerations would come true eight weeks after my joke.

Yet so it has proved: Eurotunnel is at this moment asking for another two billion pounds to throw into the hole in the ground, and I would not be in the least surprised if the banks stumped up every penny.

They did; and more.

And now? How goes the bottomless hole? Well, when last heard from, it was *eight billion pounds* in debt. (I keep finding people who think that the eight billion are for running the hole; if you meet someone who thinks that, it would be a kindness to awaken him, particularly if he is holding a bundle of tunnel shares and hoping to ease the life of someone else in the year 2250.

Eight billion pounds of debt: just think for a moment about the kind of debt *we* might run up. Perhaps we haven't cleared our Visa payments; perhaps the greengrocer's bill hasn't been paid; or — the stakes are rising — the tailor's account has been presented. Why, we might even find ourselves — this is as far as the nightmare goes — short of the readies for the school fees. And then you read again that Sir Alastair ("Blame someone else") Morton needs eight billion pounds to satisfy the Visa account, the greengrocer's, the tailor's *and* the school fees.

Now I would love to be in hock up to eight billions — for an hour, say. Wouldn't you? But then you might have to be Sir Alastair himself, and then you would have to say in the morning that (I quote from Sir A) "In 1995 we may succeed or we may fail, our debt service costs may overwhelm us," and in the afternoon that (I quote from Sir A) "Today's statement is not some kind of farewell, we are not going bust," and you would be hard put to it to guess which statement is right, if either.

I don't suppose that the tunnel will be abandoned, though if I were so stupid as to have bought shares in it in the first place I would by now certainly be trying to get something — anything — for them. Sir ("Blame someone else") Alastair says that the shareholders will not have to pay yet again, and I am quite sure that Sir Alastair means every word of his promise; well, as Shakespeare has it:

> Yet his means are in supposition: he hath an argosy bound to Tripolis, another to the Indies; I understand moreover upon the Rialto, he hath a third at Mexico, a fourth for England, and other ventures he hath squandered abroad. But ships are but boards, sailors but men; there be land-rats and water-rats, land-thieves and water-thieves — I mean pirates — and then there is the peril of waters, winds and rocks.

Oh, my socks, my socks, my trusty socks! *And oh, my mattress, my* sturdy mattress! And oh, my golden *doubloons, my golden doubloons!* How wise I was to trust only in them *when others were wagging fingers* at me and telling me that I was foolish *to put my money in my socks* and under the mattress, where they *would grow* very, *very slowly*, whereas if I put my funds into a very remarkable *organisation* called the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, my funds *would* pile up so fast that I would have to buy an enormous *stepladder* to see how the top of the pile was getting on.

No; *I* have not got shares in Eurotunnel, and I do not propose to *take shares in that famous hole* in the ground. But that is not just a jeer at Eurotunnel; not only have I no shares in Eurotunnel, but I have no shares in *anything*, and when, not long ago, kind experts explained to me, carefully and without using long words, that I could make myself a very nice pile if I invested in a rock-solid company called Barings, I declined. Silly me!

A headline catches my eye. It runs: "Eurotunnel warns of failure risk over £8bn bank debt". And I pour myself a cool glass of wine, and put some Mozart quartets on the CD, and I stretch out on the sofa, with a day's work behind me, and read again that headline, and shake my head, and smile.

● *When the Oklahoma bomb went off it seemed — from past experiences — to be the work of Muslim fanatics. I therefore wrote as if that had been established. In fact, no Muslim had anything to do with the atrocity. I much regret my haste and the mistake it led me to, and offer my sincere apologies to all peaceable Muslims.*

Oh what a useful web it weaves

Nigel Hawkes discovers the spider's genius

Go to the ant, thou sluggard, urge the *Proverbs*: *consider* her ways, and be wise. To judge by the latest results, the spider might provide a better model.

Scientists at the Marshall Space Flight Centre in Alabama have been feeding their spiders on drugs. The effects have encouraged them to think that the spider whose persistence inspired Robert the Bruce might serve as an experimental animal in the toxicity testing of chemicals.

Spiders on speed weave furiously, but without a lot of discipline, leaving huge holes in their webs. On caffeine the web loses its shape completely, consisting of little more than a few threads woven together at random.

A spider under the influence of marijuana gets so far, and then stops work, apparently so laid-back that it cannot be bothered to finish. And on the soporofic drug chloral hydrate, spiders barely even begin.

In general, the scientists found, the more toxic the chemical the more deformed the web. With the aid of computers they hope to be able to analyse the effect, and put some figures on it. Then maybe the spider's erratic weaving will enable the toxicity of untested chemicals to be assessed.

Country people who revere the spider would deplore any such plan. "If you wish to live and thrive, let a spider run alive" reflects an old feeling that spiders are good company, creatures who should be left to their own devices. There is truth in the adage, for a house that is full of spiders is one that is dry and sound: like rats from sinking ships, spiders bale out when damp starts rising. Besides, they help to keep insects under control.

Spiders' webs are among the greatest of engineering miracles in the natural world, and the space scientists of Alabama are not the first to cast covetous eyes on them. Catching a fly in flight with a web is the equivalent of stopping a jet aircraft with a net made of strands an inch in diameter — and no man-made material has that combination of elasticity and strength.

In general, every spider of a particular species weaves webs to a single blueprint, and then uses them to catch whatever happens along. But a Brazilian researcher recently found an interesting exception: a spider that tailors its web to specific prey. Most of the time it will spin a fine mesh web to catch flies, but when conditions are right, it will create a larger, wide-mesh web to take advantage of nearby termite swarms. The bigger webs are better suited to the bigger prey.

The US Army has for years run a programme of research into spiders' webs at its Natick Research Centre, near Boston. They chose the golden orb weaver, *Nephila clavipes*, a large Panamanian spider, as the best supplier of silk, and they "milk" it by taping it upside down to a table and winding the silk that emerges from its spinnerets around a spindle.

In a single afternoon, one of these spiders can turn out 1,000ft of silk, without apparent harm. The next day they are ready to do the same again. The idea is not so much to make anything from the silk as to analyse the proteins it contains, with a view to producing it artificially.

The most plausible way of doing this is by genetic engineering. If the silk gene were inserted into a bacterium, then it ought to be able to produce the protein to order. More than one group has claimed success in identifying the gene, but the next step has proved elusive. So far, no bacterium can match the spider's silk.

The spider's web is not used solely for catching prey. Among the spiders of Australia, where the females have developed the alarming habit of eating their mates during the act of copulation, some males use the silken threads to tie down the females in an extraordinary act of bondage.

These males also use the females' webs as lures, drumming them in a hypnotic rhythm which attracts the females and makes them fall into a kind of trance. The females, for their part, use the webs as homes, or as a silky wrapping to keep their young warm.

Human uses of spiders' webs include the old practice of wrapping them around wounds to staunch bleeding and to encourage the healing process. There seems every reason to suppose that this may work, or at least do little harm; the closely woven web provides a network upon which blood can clot.

Despite their many charms, an awful lot of people don't like spiders — and it is true that out of context they can be creepy. A spider in the bath is especially displeasing, and even worse when you know what happens if you flush it down the waste. It creeps back up and peers at your naked body through the overflow. This is absolutely true, apparently.

In its place, however, there are few creatures more adept than our eight-legged friends. Now that they have found a new role as chemical canaries, perhaps we will begin to appreciate them more.

Philip Howard's column will appear tomorrow.

Lots more yet

NOT SATISFIED with scooping millions from the National Lottery, Winston Churchill, MP, is guaranteed to pull in a very tidy sum over the next 20 years from reprints of his grandfather's papers. For I learn that he is retaining the copyright of Sir Winston Churchill's archives even after they are officially handed over to the State.

"We represent Winston Churchill, MP, and although the Chartwell papers are being sold, he retains the property rights," sniffs a spokeswoman for the agents, Curtis Brown. Although she refuses to discuss the sums involved, an archivist at Churchill College, Cambridge, describes them as "substantial".

Hence every commercial reprint of "We shall fight them on the beaches..." or "This was their finest hour" or reprint of any of Sir Winston's letters will incur a charge, with the exception of reproduction in academic journals.

Labour's heritage spokesman, Chris Smith, argues that the £12.5 million paid for the papers should have reflected the retention of copyright. "This highlights the disparity between the generosity of the gift of the post-1945 papers by Churchill's widow some years back, with no strings attached, and the way in which the family trust has behaved over these papers."

The fees will continue to be payable until 2015 — 50 years after Sir Winston's death.

"It is unusual, particularly for political papers, but it is not unique," adds the archivist. "In this case, we are talking about a lot of money."

Pit stop

THE TWITTERING of pit canaries may soon be heard no more. For the Environment Secretary, John Gummer, is coming to their rescue. He *intends to change the* law which requires all mines to keep "two caged birds".

The Health and Safety Executive predicts that some pits will be loath to part with their feathered friends. "The legislation only removes the *obligation* to keep the birds, but pits and rescue stations might well keep them for sentimental reasons."

But British Coal's man in Ashby-de-la-Zouche is not so sure. "We don't even give our birds names," he barks, adding: "Actually we treat our canaries better than the lads. They have centrally heated cages and double-glazing."

To war

NUDGE Viscount Whitelaw and inquire about his memories of VE-Day and you are likely to receive a dusty reply. For the Tory party's grandest elder statesman disclosed yesterday at the Imperial War Museum that, for him personally, May 8, 1945, was not an especially cheerful occasion. At the party to

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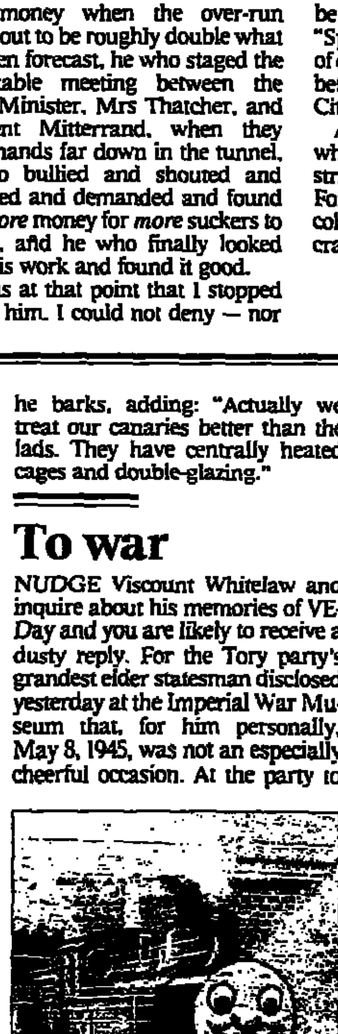
mark publication of Martin Gilbert's book *The Day the War Ended*, attended by Norma Major, the Defence Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, and a former Chief of the Defence Staff, Lord Bramall, Whitelaw told me: "I had just been recalled from Europe to be told I was being sent to Japan." So, all day he had to endure ribbing from friends on the lines of: "Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha. You're going to Japan. Ha, ha, ha."

"In the end they dropped the bombs on Japan and I went to Palestine instead," he says. "But I didn't find it very funny at the time."



Thomas: road and rail

● *The Fat Controller is going full steam ahead for Thomas the Tank Engine's 50th birthday on May 24. Three London cabs will be painted in Thomas's colours. "They will be painted bright blue, with red and yellow trim and Thomas's face will be smiling on the doors," says one of his stokers.*

Smoke free

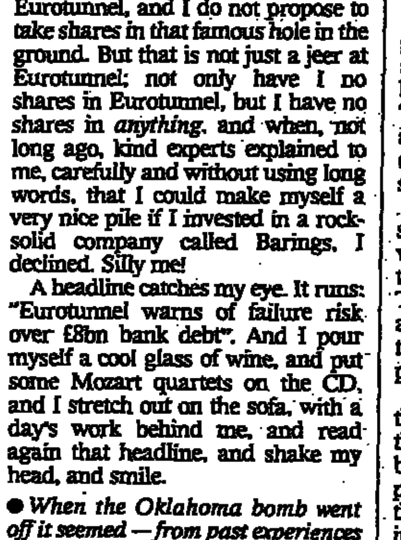
OUR MAN in Havana, Philip Maclean, notched up a diplomatic coup at an embassy dinner held in honour of Sir Patrick Sheehy, chairman of the tobacco conglomerate BAT. Sheehy had flown in to support a joint venture with the Union de Empresas del Tabaco to modernise Havana's Criollos factory.

And who should turn up but Fidel Castro? To the bemusement of corona-puffing guests, pinned proudly to El Presidente's battle fatigues was a no-smoking medal, awarded to him by the World Health Council when he gave up cigars.

Summing up

KENNETH CLARKE must despair of the mathematical capabilities of fellow Tories in his Rushcliffe constituency. Some of the Chancellor's local Conservative candidates in the council elections have been forced to admit that Labour costs *less*.

After alleging in their pre-election bumpf that Labour was planning council-tax increases, Tories in Musters Ward have sent out another leaflet which is a masterpiece of retraction. "This statement was inaccurate and misleading," it reads. "We can confirm that Labour members on Rushcliffe Borough Council moved an alternative budget which, although increasing expenditure, would have effectively reduced the council tax to less than that agreed by the Conservatives."


IT WON'T BE YOU
(YOU'RE NOT A TORY MP)

Clarke is remaining silent about the leaflet, but has readily admitted to suffering slight problems with his maths in the past.

P·H·S

هكذا امن الاوائل

هكذا منذ الاصل

ANCESTRAL ARCHIVES

Churchill embarrasses the authorities — again

The Government might reasonably have expected the purchase by the nation of Sir Winston Churchill's papers to be a political coup. The use of National Lottery money to buy the Chartwell archive, which includes almost everything that the war leader wrote before 1945, could plausibly have been seen as the perfect launch for the 50th anniversary of VE-Day. In practice, the £12.5 million deal, the first major expenditure by the lottery's heritage fund, has proved unexpectedly contentious. In the Commons yesterday, Paddy Ashdown claimed that Churchill himself would be "turning in his grave" if he knew how much of the public's money had been spent on his papers.

That is a gross exaggeration. Churchill left his papers to his family as a nest-egg, rightly assuming that they would become valuable. As a good Tory, he would surely have been appalled to learn that taxpayer's money had profited his descendants. But his approach to the proceeds of a National Lottery — the profits of a business in which money is freely given in the hope of massive reward — would probably have been rather different.

The proper fate of a Prime Minister's private papers remains a complex question. On the one hand, there is a growing pressure for open government and transparency in affairs of state. At its most extreme, this school of thought would make everything that a Prime Minister put in writing the property of the State. Such a position is clearly impractical. Not everything written on Downing Street writing paper can be said to be public property, any more than everthing written on a private company's paper belongs to the company in question.

When Baroness Thatcher was writing her memoirs, she had to seek permission to consult official papers relating to her time in office. By the same token, she or her family will be perfectly entitled in due course to sell her own records of those years. In Churchill's case, the issue is largely a matter for pragmatism. The papers have been in private hands for many years and could scarcely have been confiscated by the State at any stage thereafter.

The more important question is whether the lottery heritage fund's decision was wise. An archive of this kind is more than a national treasure. It is also a scholarly resource. Churchillian history will not necessarily be best served by keeping these papers in this country. Nor would such scholarship be obstructed by their transfer to, for example, a sympathetic American university. It is easier than ever for dons to find funds for foreign travel should they need to consult archives overseas. Many academics find libraries overseas far more efficient and easier to work in.

The collection, however, includes such precious iconic items as the draft of Churchill's speech "We shall fight them on the beaches". This and the general desirability of keeping the collection in a single place justify the lottery's purchase. As the nation prepares for the VE-Day celebrations, there will be much proper pride that the papers are to be kept in Britain. Indeed, there could be no better symbol of our collective determination to keep alive popular memory of Churchill's leadership and what it symbolised to the British people. The Cambridge college named after him, which will now keep the archive, must not underestimate the significance of its gift: it must live up to the expectations implicit in the lottery's largesse.

ESSEX VALUES

A council without pride in its paragons

Essex is not a county famed for civic pride. Too much of its energy is spent defending itself against snobbish jokes. But in a central area of life it excels: the county boasts some of the country's most successful grammar schools. By attracting the ablest children from all over Essex and teaching them to the highest standards, these schools, most notably Chelmsford County High School for Girls, regularly find themselves near the top of the examination league tables. Now, through a stroke of ideological vindictiveness, the county council is poised to deprive many hundreds of children of a chance to benefit from this educational excellence.

The bureaucratic change sounds relatively trivial: the council plans to end free school travel for children who attend not their local comprehensive, but a grammar school that is further away. Because, however, the grammars' catchment areas are so extensive, some of these children will face travel bills of up to £1,000 a year, well beyond the reach of many parents, if they lose the right to free home-to-school travel. This change could mark a return to prewar days, when bright and promising working-class children could not afford to take up places at grammar school because the uniform or the fares were beyond their means.

In the guise of cost-cutting, the Labour-Liberal Democrat council is trying to enforce an ideological agenda. Although grammar schools are broadly popular in the county and Essex is rare in maintaining them, many of the ruling county councillors are opposed to the principle of selective education. They would be delighted if children had to leave grammar schools and move back to the comprehensive sector.

But their plans promise to achieve exactly the opposite of what even a Labour politician should want. Labour's opposition to selection is based not only on a dislike of grammar schools but even more on a dislike of secondary moderns. It does not want children who fail the 11-plus to end up with a third-rate education.

Yet in Essex, the comprehensives are by no means secondary moderns: they are truly comprehensive, since the grammar schools take only a tiny fraction from the top of the ability range. In Colchester, for instance, the girls' grammar school has such a large catchment area that it admits only about 20 pupils a year from the town of Colchester. The other schools in the town, therefore, continue to take a large number of clever girls.

If the council succeeds in withdrawing free travel, the grammar schools' catchment areas will have to shrink. They will take more local children, thus depriving local comprehensives of many of their brightest pupils. The local councillors will have brought about what they deplore: the division of education in Essex into grammars and secondary moderns.

What is more, the children who will be worst hit will be precisely those whom a left-of-centre council should be supporting. Middle-class families will have little problem finding the money for train and bus fares. It will be the poorer parents who will have to withdraw their children from grammar schools. The whole point of state education is that it should be equally available to all. Essex County Council should reconsider this misguided policyand take pride in its greatest asset.

DISTRESS FLARE

Russia burns as Moscow neglects its pipelines

The pillar of fire that rose over Siberia yesterday symbolises the catastrophic state of Russia's crumbling gas and oil pipelines. The explosion released into the air a fireball of gas, setting alight a swath of forest. Although there appear to have been no casualties, the explosion further damages Siberia's fragile environment, already polluted by hundreds of oil spills from ageing pipelines. And it underlines Russia's dangerous dependence on energy exports for vital foreign currency.

The network of oil and gas lines that crisscross the Siberian wastes was built rapidly during the Brezhnev era, a time of sloppy construction, party corruption and disregard for environmental or human safety. The gas pipes in particular, transporting huge quantities of natural gas from the Ukhta region of northern Russia to the profitable markets of Western Europe, became a political *cause célèbre* in the early 1980s, when European governments, including the Thatcher government, defied American pressure to reject the proposed pipeline deal.

The Germans supplied most of the steel pipes for the 137,000-mile network, which was built at great speed. European governments, now dangerously dependent on this remote source, did not fully take into account slipshod Russian construction, the extreme winter temperatures and the Russians' failures to carry out proper maintenance, made worse by the political and economic collapse of the Soviet Union. The gas lines now leak more than 10 per cent of their contents into the atmosphere. There have been other disasters, notably in 1989 when a spark from a passing train caused a fireball that incinerated hundreds of passengers.

But this waste is as nothing compared with the lakes of oil forming all along the length of Russia's porous oil conduits. Last year, when oil spills threatened the long-term pollution of important Arctic rivers, Western environmentalists raised the alarm. Moscow at first played down the revelation that 100,000 tons of oil had leached into bogs and creeks, three times the quantity spilt by the *Exxon Valdez*. It modified this insouciance in the face of intense Western concern. But an emergency clean-up strategy backed by the World Bank was finalised only this month, and another large spill was reported in the region this week.

For years the Russians have been profligate with their natural resources. They are particularly wasteful of energy, partly because communist ideology did not recognise the inherent value of a resource not measured in terms of human labour, and partly because subsidies disguised the real cost. In addition, the drive for foreign currency revenue led to such over-exploitation that oil experts now say that many oilfields have been permanently flooded or made otherwise unproductive, and Russia's reserve must be radically revised downwards.

The emerging market economy is beginning to correct some of these anomalies, and Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, is a veteran of the gas industry who ought to understand the importance of reliable supplies. But further disasters are certain until Russia undertakes a huge renovation of its pipelines, fully deregulates its energy prices and, above all, removes the bureaucratic and legal obstacles that are holding up the participation of energy multinationals in a rescue operation of strategic importance.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

'Noble gesture' on Churchill papers

From Dr Piers Brendon

Sir, Mr Peregrine Churchill's statement that "much of the paper" in the Churchill Archives Centre "is already crumbling to dust" (report, April 27) is quite incorrect.

The Churchill papers are kept under optimum conditions. They are protected in an air-conditioned, flood-, burglar- and fire-proof vault. They are cared for by a skilled conservator who has treated and conserved almost a quarter of a million documents since 1974 and bound them into 2,750 volumes. And the papers are being catalogued by expert professional archivists.

All this work has been funded by Churchill College and generous donations from various charitable bodies. Moreover, the work of the Churchill Archives Centre has recently won the approval of the Historical Manuscripts Commission and the National Heritage Memorial Fund, to name no others.

Mr Churchill's further statement that he expects to spend up to £5 million to maintain the archive is equally surprising, but pleasurably so. This is, indeed, a noble gesture and I look forward to hearing how and when this munificent sum is to be bestowed.

Yours faithfully,
PIERS BRENDON
(Keeper), Churchill Archives Centre,
Churchill College, Cambridge.
April 27.

Teachers' outburst

From the Chief Executive of Trinity College London

Sir, It comes as no surprise to find (report, April 25) that the headteachers and the governors have adopted a "forgive and forget" attitude to those of their employees who behaved so disgracefully at the National Union of Teachers' annual conference.

Until those in authority, in all walks of life, recover the will to apply appropriate punishment in return for wilful antisocial behaviour, where lies any hope that we shall regain the self-respect and self-discipline that used to be a core feature of our society?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN DAVEY,
Chief Executive,
Trinity College London,
16 Park Crescent, W1.
April 25.

From Mr P. E. Poynter

Sir, I see that the behaviour by teachers witnessed on national television will go unchecked. It's little wonder that students of today flout discipline when their so-called superiors behave in such a manner. I would have thought such an outburst and lack of self-control should warrant three days' exclusion.

Yours faithfully,
P. E. POYNTER
(School Governor),
Northam,
Cromwell Road, Whitstable, Kent.

Japan's creativity

From Dr David M. Jacobson

Sir, You berate Japan (leading article, April 20) for its lack of creative talent and criticise Japanese companies for latching onto gifted talent from the West. I would suggest that it might be more illuminating to ask why British inventors feel obliged to sign up with Japanese corporations. What does this tell us about Western entrepreneurial culture and, more particularly, about the attitude of our own commercial management to inventors and to the risks associated with trail blazing?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID M. JACOBSON,
10 Gabrielle Close,
Wembley, Middlesex.

From Dr David R. Trentham, FRS

Sir, I was distressed by the xenophobic tone of your leading article, which concluded that the Japanese must change if they are to become inventors. From your specific examples of the software and entertainment industries, where English-speaking people have an inbuilt advantage, you draw broad conclusions that are not warranted.

Permit me to redress the balance by recounting briefly my own recent experience that is illustrative of two decades of close association with Japanese science and biomedical industry.

During a visit to Japan last March I was privileged to witness an experiment in which the time course of a biological reaction of a *single* molecule was measured. It is a unique achievement to monitor a reaction in water with such sensitivity. The observation has been published in the April 6 issue of *Nature*. The implications of this result in biotechnology and health sciences for unravelling biological mechanisms are enormous.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID R. TRENTHAM,
High Cross House,
High Cross, Aldenham,
Watford, Hertfordshire.

Business letters, page 27

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Drawbacks of cultivated fish stocks

From Mr Allan W. Berry

Sir, Professor S. John Pirt writes (letter, April 20) that there are never again going to be enough fish in the wild to satisfy the market, and that the only solution to the problem is to divert from hunting fish to farming fish.

Unfortunately it takes around three tons of wild fish to manufacture the feed required to produce a ton of farmed fish in the sea. It may be said that many of the wild species used to produce fish pellets would not be fished for direct human consumption, nevertheless they are lost to the marine food chain wherever they are fished.

The valuable fish oils we gain from the consumption of fish are the products of micro-organisms and reach us through the food chain. There is no other source. Good management of this natural resource is vital, and it can be argued that a well managed fishery will be more productive than intensive fish farming, which is consuming more and more fish from the wild, increasing the pollution loading and upsetting the natural nutrient ratios of coastal waters.

Wild fish such as sea trout suffer from the parasites which infest cage fish, and sea trout have disappeared from farmed areas. The increasing dependence on pesticides to combat the parasites is a further problem.

In short you get nothing for nothing, and if all of the wild fish harvest were turned into feed for intensively farmed animals, we would have less to eat rather than more.

Yours faithfully,
ALLAN W. BERRY
(Chairman),
Knapdale Seafarms Ltd,
PO Box 1, Lochgilphead, Argyll.
April 21.

From Mr John F. Robins

Sir, Professor Pirt is wrong to put any faith in the prospect of aquaculture solving the global problem of dwindling wild fish stocks. Fish farming is already a massive industry in many parts of the world but very little of that effort is directed toward subsistence farming of species with high protein but low commercial value. Instead the majority of intensive fish farms produce luxury species such as salmon, trout, shrimp, oyster and the like.

The industry can be seen at its worst around the Scottish coast, where almost every sea loch has at least one floating factory farm producing Atlantic salmon. These farms can disrupt local ecology, with seals and other wildlife routinely killed or scared away from their natural habitat.

There is only one slim chance of protecting wild fish stocks before commercial extinction is followed by total extinction of many species. Fishing has to be strictly policed on a global scale.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN F. ROBINS
(Organising Secretary),
Animal Concern,
62 Old Dumbarton Road, Glasgow.
April 22.

From Mr John Green

Sir, More than thirty years ago I served on the research and development committee of the White Fish Authority. One of our projects was to consider the possibility of farming the more valuable species of salt-water fish such as plaice and turbot.

Initial research proved that controlled fertilisation of plaice eggs resulted in a hatch rate far in excess of the natural average. At the appropriate time the fry were released into a Scottish loch to develop as in the wild. Most of the fish were eaten by crabs.

The programme was abandoned due to lack of funds before full-scale, long-term research could be undertaken. At the time it was impossible to justify the cost of farmed fish against the cheaper wild fish.

A well funded programme to develop farmed fish should be set up before the seas round our coast are fished out. In Norway such a programme is well advanced: they view their fish industry and stocks as an asset not to be destroyed.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GREEN
(President, National Federation of Fishmongers, 1967-68),
J. B. Green (Crouch End) Ltd,
65 Wood Vale, Muswell Hill, N10.
April 20.

Serbia-Bosnia border

From Professor Emeritus Adrian Hastings

Sir, I returned from a visit to Sarajevo on April 12. With the airport closed because of Serb threats, I had to take the one land route Bosnia's Government controls — through the tunnel and over Mount Igmen. I wonder whether the five-nation Contact Group representatives might not consider the same route, if they are genuinely anxious to consult the Bosnian Government.

In Sarajevo I was struck by the extent to which the current policy of the Contact Group is based upon sheer make-believe, in particular the idea that President Milosevic has now closed Serbia's border to assistance for Dr Karadzic and the army of General Mladic and should in consequence no longer be treated as an aggressor but instead, subject to formal recognition of Bosnia and Croatia, be rewarded by the removal of sanctions.

In a recent article (*The Tablet*, April 1), Mr Hurd asserts that President Milosevic "has closed his border with Bosnia (the international monitoring mission has consistently reported that the border has been closed and that the Serbian authorities are co-operating to ensure that it remains so)". Everyone in Sarajevo knows this to be untrue.

As *The New York Times* commented in an editorial of February 16, "Serbian helicopters have been brazenly flying supplies across the supposedly sealed border". Pontoon bridges across the Drina are also regularly used at night and there is evidence that units of the Yugoslav army are continuing to enter Bosnia (as they did for the attack on Gorazde) for specific exercises.

It has become central to the Contact Group case, both for not raising the arms embargo upon the legitimate Government of Bosnia and for raising the trade embargo upon Serbia, that Milosevic really has "closed the border". In fact once again he has merely carried out an elaborate exercise in pretence, seized upon by the international community as an escape route.

While a genuine closure of the border would greatly further the ending of the war, the present policy of the Contact Group can only extend it.

Yours sincerely,
ADRIAN HASTINGS,
University of Leeds,
Department of Theology
and Religious Studies,
Leeds LS2 9JT.
April 23.

Identity cards

From Sir Sigmund Sternberg

Sir, I agree with Mr Christopher Jackson (letter, April 25) that there is a need for a rational view on identity cards. It may well be worthwhile, as he says, to examine the way in which the Danes have dealt with the matter.

By coincidence, the Greeks are involved in a similar discussion — not whether to issue ID cards, but whether it is right for such cards to include religion.

The small Greek Jewish community totals 5,000. In 1941, 65,000 Jews, 85 per cent of the Greek Jewish population, were deported to concentration camps by the Nazis. Few returned. For fairly obvious reasons, Greek Jews oppose the inclusion of religion on ID cards. In the past, such identification has made it easier for them to be singled out for discrimination and worse.

Leaders of the Greek Orthodox Church, with whom I had discussions during a recent short visit, did not seem to understand the problem. There is little anti-Semitism or racism in Greece and Greek Orthodox leaders are receptive to the idea of more contact between the faiths, as indeed are others. A recent revision of textbooks has been widely welcomed as an important first step.

My visit to Greece strengthened my views that inter-religious dialogue is of growing importance in our troubled world. Much more than ID cards is at stake.

Yours etc,
SIGMUND STERNBERG,
The Sternberg Centre for Judaism,
The Manor House,
80 East End Road, N3.
April 26.

Pressures of tourism

From the Chairman of the British Tourist Authority and the English Tourist Board

Sir, Mr Neil Sinden of the Council for the Protection of Rural England (letter, April 22) is wrong to claim that the "tourist boards pay little more than lip service to the environment". Where there is an irreconcilable conflict between conservation and tourism in, say, the national parks, then conservation must take precedence. But it's very rare that this cannot be resolved by better visitor management.

Tourism and the environment are inextricably linked and the English Tourist Board has been addressing these issues for some years, working closely with the Countryside Commission, the Rural Development Commission and the Historic Towns Forum. Joint projects have included visitor management programmes, conservation projects and several guides to good practice to encourage sustainable tourism.

Tourism in many areas, with our encouragement, provides much-needed revenue for conservation and regeneration projects in our historic towns, our stately homes and our countryside that is not forthcoming from other sources.

One of our primary objectives is to spread tourism widely and comfortably throughout the country and to encourage people to travel out of season. Partnership is the key to the future of tourism and the environment in Britain.

Yours faithfully,
ADELE BISS,
Chairman, British Tourist Authority
and English Tourist Board,
Thames Tower,
Black's Road, Hammersmith, W6.

Books panel gap 'a bad augury'

From the President, English Centre of International PEN, and others

Sir, We write to express concern at the recent decision by Lord Gowrie, chairman of the Arts Council of England, to take over the chairmanship of the council's literature panel. The former chairman of the panel was Michael Holroyd, whose widely expected four-year term of office has been surprisingly terminated after only three years, and who has therefore ceased to be a member of the council. The introduction of a vice-chairman to the panel will be no adequate compensation.

While we are fully aware that literature is one of Lord Gowrie's many cultural interests, we feel anxious that his other responsibilities may not allow him the necessary time to be as readily accessible to writers as his predecessor — a writer of international standing, who has been an indefatigable campaigner on behalf of his fellow writers over many years.

We would welcome reassurance by Lord Gowrie that this abrupt change does not in any way augur ill for literature. We remind him that writers expect literature to occupy a major place in any restructuring of Arts Council policy over the next year.

Yours faithfully,
JOSEPHINE
PULLEIN-THOMPSON
(President),
SYBILLE BEDFORD,
WILLIAM COOPER,
MARGARET DRABBLE,
PETER ELSTOB,
ANTONIA FRASER,
RONALD HARWOOD,
FRANCIS KING,
IRIS MURDOCH,
HAROLD PINTER,
BERNICE RUBENS,
TOM STOPPARD
(Vice-Presidents),
The English Centre of
International PEN,
7 Dilke Street, Chelsea, SW3.
April 25.

Forecasting change

From Professor John R. G. Turner

Sir, Unlikely as the last few weeks make it seem, clouts are increasingly likely to be cast in April (letters, April 10, 12, 21, 25). By mapping the temperature month by month over the whole of Britain, Dr J. J. Lennon and I have found that between the 1950s and the 1970s the summer months did not become noticeably warmer, but that the summers did become *longer*: April warmed up, on average over the 20 years, by at least half a degree Celsius.

This warming was consistent across the whole of England and Wales: in Scotland it seems to have been, at best, patchy.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN TURNER,
University of Leeds,
Unit for Ecogenetic Biogeography,
Department of Genetics,
Leeds LS2 9JT.
April 25.

Unconnected

From Mr Maurice Parry-Wingfield

Sir, Of the 40 or so members of the Institute of Directors photographed yesterday at the Albert Hall, lunchbox on lap, only one was using a mobile phone. Is this a record?

Yours faithfully,
MAURICE PARRY-WINGFIELD,
Dudley House, 11 Montpelier Row,
Twickenham, Middlesex.
April 27.

In a thicket

From Mr R. W. R. Smith

Sir, Mr David Norbury (letter, April 24) wonders why his hedge-trimmer includes a warning that he should clear his lawn of stones before using it. This is a fairly mild example of what we have come to call "bizarre warning syndrome", which has grown with the rise of consumerism.

I suspect that it may have started with rotary lawn-mower manufacturers who found their product was being used for hedge-cutting, with occasional unfortunate consequences. They took to warning their customers only to use the mower for cutting grass. The hedge-trimmers are obviously fighting back.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT W. R. SMITH,
H. J. Smith & Co (solicitors),
22 Rayne Road, Braintree, Essex.
April 26.

From Mr Oliver Chastney

Sir, I assume that the hedge-trimmer which David Norbury recently purchased with instructions to "clear lawn of stones" before use is a version of that efficient all-purpose model which has been popular hereabouts for generations: a goat.

Yours faithfully,
OLIVER CHASTNEY,
53 Keswick Road,
Cringleford, Norwich.

From Mr W. J. Bailey

Sir, I suspect that Mr Norbury did not realise that he had an edge-trimmer.

Yours truly,
W. J. BAILEY,
Bents, Gromford Lane,
Snape, Saxmundham, Suffolk.

COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 27: The Queen, Sovereign of the Order, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, was present this morning at a Service of the Royal Victorian Order held in St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle.

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Grand Master of the Order, The Princess Royal and Commander Timothy Laurence RN, The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, Princess Alexandra, the Hon Lady Ogilvy, and the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy were also present.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were received by the Dean of Windsor (the Very Reverend Patrick Mitchell) and the Chaplain of the Order (the Reverend John Robson).

Detachments of Her Majesty's Body Guard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms, The Queen's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard and the Military Knights of Windsor were on duty in St George's Chapel.

The Lady Susan Hussey, the Rt Hon Sir Robert Fellowes and Lieutenant Colonel Sir Guy Acland, Bt, were in attendance.

Afterwards The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh gave a Reception at Windsor Castle for those who attended the Service.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 27: The Princess Royal this morning arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, from Mauritius.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
April 27: The Prince of Wales today visited Inverurie and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Aberdeenshire (Captain Colin Farquharson of Whitehouse).

His Royal Highness this morning visited the Bennachie Centre. The Prince of Wales afterwards visited the Garioch Sports Trust Complex, Strathburn Park.

His Royal Highness later visited Lasalle Engineering Limited.

The Prince of Wales this afternoon visited Harlaw Day Centre. His Royal Highness afterwards visited the Garioch Indoor Bowling Club.

The Prince of Wales later visited the Donald Russell Factory. His Royal Highness subsequently visited Community Woodlands, Newseat of Manar.

Commander Richard Aylard RN was in attendance.

The Prince of Wales was represented by the Earl of Shelburne at the funeral of Her Grace the Duchess of Beaufort, which was held at St Michael's Church, Great Badminton, Avon, this afternoon.

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 27: The Princess of Wales, Colonel in Chief, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshires) and Patron, Exercise Intrepid Samburu, this morning received Major Kenneth Hames and Mr Timothy Booth.

April 27: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, Patron, this evening attended the Royal Caledonian Ball at Grosvenor House, in aid of the Royal Caledonian Schools.

Mrs Charles Vyvyan was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
April 27: The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman, the British Overseas Trade Board, this evening attended a reception at Admiralty House, Whitehall, London SW1, to mark the opening of the Thorp Nuclear Reprocessing Plant (Sellafield).

Captain Marcus Barnett was in attendance.

The night sky in May

By Michael J Hendrie
ASTRONOMY CORRESPONDENT

MERCURY is an evening star throughout May reaching greatest eastern elongation (22 degrees) on the 12th. Although it will be setting about two hours after the Sun during the first two weeks of the month it will fade from -0.7 magnitude on the 1st to +1 by the 15th and with the evening twilight lengthening will become increasingly difficult to see. The planet will be towards the northwest and rather low in the sky. Binoculars should help to find it in a bright sky, but once found it should be easily visible to the naked eye early in the month. The thin crescent Moon will be to the south on the 1st when Mercury will be to the south of the Pleiades.

Venus rises about an hour before the Sun throughout the month and at -3.8 magnitude may be visible very low in the eastern dawn sky before sunrise. Moon occults Venus on the 27th.

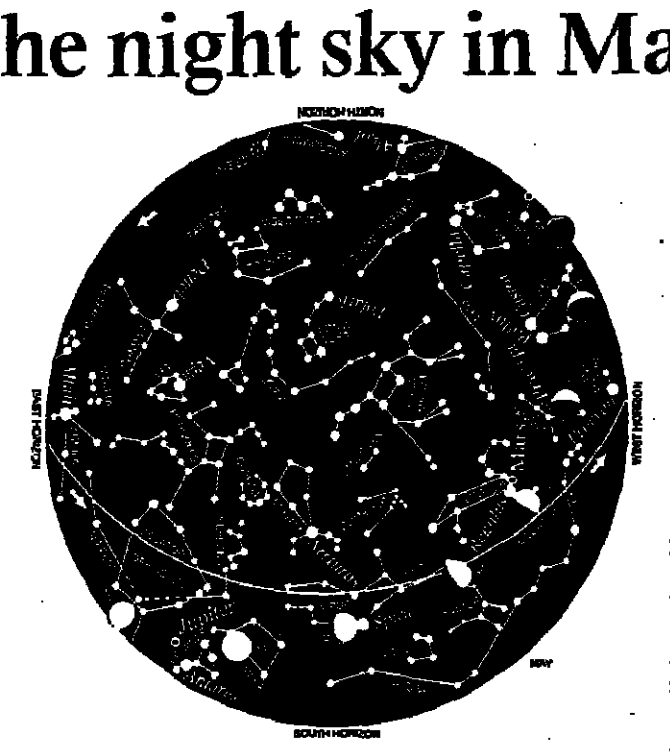
Mars is moving eastwards again through Leo, passing only a degree north of Regulus on the 24th. By the 31st Mars will have faded to +1 mag. Moon to the south on the 8th.

Jupiter is in Ophiuchus rising soon after dark on the 1st and follows a low arc across the southern sky. The -2.5mag. planet will be to the south of the Moon on the 15th/16th and to the north of Antares in mid-month.

Saturn is in Aquarius, 1.2 magnitude and rising soon after 01h by the 31st. The Moon passes to the north on the 23rd/24th.

Uranus is in Capricornus reaching a stationary point on the 5th after which its motion against the stars will be retrograde or towards the west. Moon to the north on the 19th.

Neptune is in Sagittarius and a few degrees west of Uranus, rising the same hour. Both planets need binoculars or a telescope for identification among the stars.



The diagram shows the brighter stars that will be above the horizon in the latitude of London at 23h (11 pm) at the beginning, 22h (10 pm) in the middle, and 21h (9 pm) at the end of the month, local mean time. At places away from the Greenwich meridian the Greenwich times at which the diagram applies are later than the above by one hour for each 15 deg west of Greenwich and earlier by a like amount if the place be east. The map should be turned so that the horizon the observer is facing (shown by the words around the circle) is at the bottom, the zenith being at the centre. Greenwich Mean Time, known to astronomers as Universal Time and expressed in 24-hour notation.

The Moon: first quarter, 7d 22h: full Moon, 14d 21h: last quarter, 21d 12h: new Moon, 29d 09h.

Sunset on the 1st is at 19h 25m and on the 31st at 20h 10m while sunrise is at 04h 30m and 03h 50m on the same dates. Astronomical twilight ends at 21h 55m and begins again at 02h 00m on the 1st and lasts all night from southern England from about May 20 until July 22.

The occultation of the 1.2 magnitude star Spica by the gibbous Moon on the evening of the 12th begins at 19h 23m and ends at 19h 48m at Greenwich, the exact times depending on the observer's position. The Moon moves eastwards by about its own diameter or half a degree every hour and from time to time it passes in front of bright stars and planets. The star will be to the east of the Moon before disappearance and up to an hour or so later it will emerge at the Moon's western limb. The duration of the occultation will be longest if the star passes centrally behind the Moon and shortest if near the edge when it may be seen as a "graze" lasting perhaps only seconds as it slips behind the mountains and valleys on the Moon's surface. From Devon and Cornwall no occultation will occur, while from the north of the country a more central occultation will be seen.

Unfortunately, this event occurs in daylight at about sunset but Spica should be visible in a telescope if the sky is very clear: binoculars may show the star near the Moon after the event when the sky will be darker.

The waning crescent Moon also occults Venus on the morning of the 27th. While also in daylight, Venus is so bright that it should be visible in binoculars near the Moon. At Greenwich the event begins at 05h 35m when Venus disappears behind the Moon and ends at 06h 40m when it re-emerges.

Saturn takes 29.5 years to complete a revolution of its orbit about the Sun and during that time it moves right round the sky. Twice in each revolution Saturn's rings become edge-on to the Sun so that first the north face and then the south face of the rings is illuminated. At about this time, every 14 or 15 years, the Earth also passes through the plane of the rings and they are then seen edge on to the Earth. The Earth may pass through the plane once or three times: in 1995-96 there will be three Earth passages.

The first Earth passage (north to south) occurs on May 22 with Saturn rather low in morning twilight. As the planet becomes observable earlier in the night, the rings will become very slightly open again but we shall see the dark side which sunlight is not reaching until August 11 when the rings become edge-on again as the Earth passes from south to north. They will open out a little and be illuminated by the Sun until November 19 when the rings will be edge on to the Sun and very poorly illuminated. The rings will then appear dark again until February 12 1996 when the Earth finally moves north to south and the sunlit rings will gradually open up again to our view.

A magnification of at least 30 times will be needed to follow these changes, the rings being invisible at times in small telescopes. Saturn will be at opposition in September. Have a look if you can; the single crossings in 2009 and 2025 are unfavourable and the next triple crossing is not until 2038-39.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S.I. Brear
and Miss S.H. Green
The engagement is announced between Scott Irvin, son of the late Lieutenant Scott Irvin Brear, USN, and Mrs Phyllis Keyes Damelia, of Boulder, Colorado, and Sheila Hurst, daughter of Dr and Mrs William Green, of Hong Kong.

Mr R.J.C. Brooker
and Miss M.T. Waine
The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mr and Mrs Alan Brooker, of Little Easton, Essex, and Michele, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Waine, of Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire.

Mr M.R. Chapman
and Miss P.C. Burke
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Chapman, of Adderbury, Oxfordshire, and Claire, daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Burke, of Ovington, Northumberland.

Dr R. Kennedy-Smith
and Miss P.J. Findlay
The engagement is announced between Ross, elder son of Dr and Mrs J.C. Kennedy-Smith, of Johannesburg, South Africa, and Paula Jane, second daughter of The Hon Mr Justice and Mrs J.K. Findlay, of The Peak, Hong Kong.

Mr A.C. McLennan
and Miss M.C. Porritt
The engagement is announced between Andrew, younger son of Mrs Beatrix McLennan and of the late Mr Gordon McLennan, of Cransford, Suffolk, and Miranda, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Porritt, of Buckland, Buckinghamshire.

Mr C.V.S. Paravicini
and Miss L.F. Laurie
The engagement is announced between Charles, elder son of Mr Nicholas Paravicini, of Brecon, Powys, and Mrs Mary Ann Paravicini, of Warfield, Berkshire, and Lucia, younger daughter of Mrs Laurence Laurie, of Fulham, London and the late Mr Laurence Laurie.

Mr W.A.C. Pym
and Miss J.L. Martin
The engagement is announced between William, only son of Mr and Mrs Martin Pym, of Barnfield, Charing, Kent, and Jane, second daughter of Mr and Mrs John Martin, of The Link House, Woodford Green, Essex.

Mr T.K. Isaacs
and Miss M.L. Goldstein
The engagement is announced between Timothy, son of Dr and Mrs Anthony Isaacs, of London, and Mandy, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ronnie Goldstein, of Surrey.

Mr A.F. Reynolds
and Miss G.H.B. Harries
The engagement is announced between Augustine, eldest son of Aidan and Henrietta Reynolds, of Wiltshire, and Genevieve, eldest daughter of Judith Harries, of Bath.

Lieutenant-Colonel M.J. Rutledge
and Miss H.M. Dennis
The engagement is announced between Lieutenant-Colonel Martin John Rutledge, 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's), eldest son of Mr and Mrs John Rutledge, and Henrietta Mary, second daughter of Mr and Mrs M.P. Dennis.

Dr S.V. Seddon
and Miss K.L. Chandler
The engagement is announced between Shaun, elder son of Mr and Mrs Bernard Seddon, of Crosby, Merseyside, and Kathryn, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Malcolm Chandler, of Whitley Bay, Northumberland.

Mr D.L. Wilson
and Miss S.F. Moorby
The engagement is announced between Derek, son of Mr and Mrs George Wilson, of Kensington, London, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Moorby, of Woodbridge, Suffolk.

Mr S.T. Wright
and Miss R. Teoli
The forthcoming marriage is announced between Shawn, younger son of Mr and Mrs K. Wright, of Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, and Rosa, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs M. Teoli, of Waltham Cross, Hertfordshire.

Marriage

Mr D.J. Morris
and Miss M. Fairgrieve
The marriage took place on Thursday, April 27, at Yeovil Register Office, Somerset, of Mr David Morris, only son of Mr and Mrs Peter Morris, Chipping Norton, Oxon, and Miss Midi Fairgrieve, youngest daughter of Sir Russell and Lady Fairgrieve, Galashiels, Scotland.

The Rev Dr J.D. Evans

A thanksgiving service for the life and work of the Rev Dr J.D. Evans, BSc, MA, PhD, formerly Head of Science Education at Cardiff Institute of Higher Education, Priest-in-charge of Mamhilad with Llanfihangel Pontymoel and Chaplain of Christ College, Brecon, is to be held in Brecon Cathedral at 10.45am on Saturday, May 13, 1995.

His Honour Judge A. Felix Waley

A service of thanksgiving for the life of His Honour Judge A. Felix Waley, VRD, QC, DL, will be held at the Temple Church, London, EC4, on Wednesday, May 3, 1995, at 5.00pm. All are welcome.

School news

Aiglon College
The Protestant Confirmation Service will take place on May 20 conducted according to the rites and ceremonies of the Church of Scotland, and not as previously stated.

Rosemead School, Littlehampton
Term began at Rosemead School, Littlehampton, on Wednesday, April 26, with Sarah Turrell as Head Girl and Winnie Wong as Deputy Head Girl. The Old Rosemeadians Celebration Lunch will take place on May 13 at the Runnymede Hotel, Surrey. Details available from the school office 01903 716065.

Governor

Mr John Owen to be Governor of the Cayman Islands from October in succession to Mr M.E.J. Gore.

Birthdays today

Lady Helen Taylor celebrates her 31st birthday today.

Mr P.T. Bateman, chief executive, Save and Prosper Group, 49; Mr Ian Beer, former Head Master, Harrow School, 64; Professor Hugh Bentall, cardiac surgeon, 75; the Earl of Breadalbane and Holland, 76; Mr Mike Brearley, cricketer and psychoanalyst, 53; Baroness Carnegy of Lour, 70; Sir Ivor Cohen, former chairman, Remploy, 64; Mr A.J. Colvin, Comptroller and City Solicitor, Corporation of London, 48; Commandant Elizabeth Craig-McFeely, former director, WRNS, 68; Mr Duane Eddy, guitarist, 57; Mr Tony Ford, director, Craft Council, 57; Dr Kenneth Kaunda, former President of Zambia, 71; Professor Nicola LeFanu, composer, 48; Sir John Leonard, former High Court judge, 69; Earl Lloyd George of Dwyfor, 71; Dr M.D. Longfield, former director, Teesside Polytechnic, 67; Mr John Madejski, chairman, Hurst Publishing, 54; Mr William Moodie, Chief Constable, Fife, 64; Sir Dai Rees, chief executive, Medical Research Council, 59; Dr Jeffrey Tate, conductor, 52; Mr J.L. Thorn, former Headmaster, Winchester College, 70; Mr Garry Weston, chairman, Associated British Foods, 68; Mrs Helen Williams, former High Mistress, St Paul's Girls' School, 57; Mr Kenneth Williams, Chief Constable, Norfolk, 51; the Ven Sam Woodhouse, former Archdeacon of London, 83; Mr James Wray, MP, 57.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Chief Patron of the Surf Life Saving Association of Great Britain, will review member clubs at Bude, Cornwall, at 10.45.

The Duke of Gloucester, as Deputy Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment, will visit Gloucester Cathedral at 2.10; and The Guildhall at 3.45 for the 1st Battalion's visit to the city on their return from Bosnia.

Luncheons

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
Sir Ivan Lawrence, QC, MP, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the UK Branch of the Parliamentary Association was the host at a luncheon held yesterday at the House of Commons to welcome Commonwealth parliamentarians attending the 1995 Parliamentary Visit at Westminster.

Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea Chambers of Commerce
Professor Leo Murray, Director of the Cranfield School of Management, was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea Chambers of Commerce held yesterday at the Mount Royal Hotel. Mr Michael Whalley, Chairman of the Australian British Chamber of Commerce, received the guests. The High Commissioner for New Zealand and the Agents General for Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia were present.

Dinners

Scriveners' Company
Mr Alderman John Chalstrey and Lord Slynn of Hadley were the principal guests at a livery dinner of the Scriveners' Company held last night at Middle Temple Hall. Mr A.H. Hamilton-Hopkins, master, presided.

Glovers' Company
Mr John Gardner, Master of the Glovers' Company, presided at a dinner held last night at Saddlers' Hall. During the evening Mr H.J.C. Pulley, Master of the Saddlers' Company, inaugurated the sponsorship scheme for the conservation and repair of gloves in the Spence Collection at Bath with the presentation of a cheque, for the specific care of gloves attributed to King James I, who granted a charter to the Saddlers' Company in 1607.

Foundation for Science and Technology
Sir Anthony Kenny, Sir Roger Elliott and Dr Graham Cameron were the speakers at a lecture and dinner discussion of the Foundation for Science and Technology held last night at the Royal Society. Lord Butterworth, chairman of the council of the foundation, was in the chair. Among those present were:

Lord Bridges, Lord Brightman, Lady Butterworth, Baroness David, Lord Quirk, Sir Walter and Lady Bodmer, Professor Sir Sam Edwards, Sir Frank Layfield, Sir John Mason, Sir Alan Muir Wood, Sir Ronald Oxburgh, Dr Jeremy Bray, MP, Dr Brian Lang, Professor D W Rhind and Professor J A Shanks.

European-Atlantic Group
The High Commissioner for Canada was the speaker at a dinner of the European-Atlantic Group held last night at the St Ermin's Hotel. Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, president, was in the chair.

London Society of Chartered Accountants
Mrs Teresa Graham, BA, FCA, Chairman of the London Society of Chartered Accountants, presided at the Society's annual Committee Dinner held at Butchers' Hall yesterday. Harold Riley, artist and portrait painter, was the guest speaker. The President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, Mr Roger Lawson, FCA, was the guest of honour. Other guests included Presidents of other District Societies of the Institute.

Service dinner

Adjutant General's Corps
The officers of the Adjutant General's Corps dined last night in their Headquarter Mess at Worthy Down. Lieutenant General Sam Cowan, CBE, Deputy Colonel Commandant, presided. Mr Michael Bett, CBE, Mr John Mortimer, CBE, QC, Mr and Mrs R.C. Pearce, the Mayor and Mayoress of Winchester, and Commissaire General Michel Virgitti, Legion d'Honneur, were among the guests.

Appointment

Mr David Miller to be Ambassador (resident) to Armenia from July in succession to Sir Brian Fall (non-resident) who will be retiring from the Diplomatic Service. Mr Miller will be the first resident UK Ambassador to Armenia.

The Royal College of Surgeons of England

Sir Rodney Sweetnam, KCVO, CBE, has been elected President of The Royal College of Surgeons of England in succession to Professor Sir Norman Browse. He will be admitted to office on July 13, 1995, for the ensuing year. Mr Alan Lettin and Professor J.D. Hardcastle have been elected as Vice Presidents.

Receptions

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
Sir Ivan Lawrence, QC, MP, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the UK Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, was the host at a reception held yesterday at the House of Commons in honour of Commonwealth parliamentarians attending the 1995 Parliamentary Visit at Westminster.

City Women's Network
Mrs Alison Thorne, Chairman of the City Women's Network, was the host at a reception held last night at the Athenaeum to mark Take Our Daughters to Work Day.

Leonard Cheshire Foundation

Sir David Goodall, Chairman of the Leonard Cheshire Foundation's international committee, is to succeed General Sir Geoffrey Howlett as Chairman of the Leonard Cheshire Foundation from May 1. Sir Patrick Walker is to become chairman of the international committee.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: King Edward IV, reigned 1461-70 and 1471-83, Rouen, 1442; Henry Dundas, 1st Viscount Melville, statesman, 1742; James Monroe, 5th American President 1817-25, Westmoreland County, Virginia, 1758; Francis Baily, astronomer, Newbury, Berkshire, 1774; Charles Robert Cockerell, architect, London, 1788; Charles Sturt, Australian explorer, Bengal, 1795; Anthony Ashley Cooper, 7th Earl of Shaftesbury, social reformer, London, 1801; Frances Hodgkins, painter, Dunedin, New Zealand, 1869; Lionel Barrymore, actor, Philadelphia, 1878; Antonio de Oliveira Salazar, Prime Minister of Portugal 1932-68, Coimbra, 1889.

DEATHS: Thomas Betterton, actor and dramatist, London, 1710; Count Johann von Struensee, physician and politician, executed, Copenhagen, 1792; John Abernethy, surgeon, Enfield, 1831; Sir Charles Bell, surgeon and anatomist, North Hallow, Worcestershire, 1842; Gilbert A. Becket, comic writer, Boulogne, 1856; Sir Samuel Cunard, shipowner, London, 1865; Benito Mussolini, Italian dictator, executed by partisans, Giulinodi di Mezzegra, 1945; Richard Hughes, novelist, Harlech, 1976.

Legal appointments

Sir Konrad Schiemann, a Justice of the High Court, to be a Lord Justice of Appeal.

Mr Justice Waller to be the judge in charge of the Commercial List in succession to Mr Justice Potter, whose 12-month term expires in October.

Mrs Justice Janet Smith to be a Presiding Judge of the North Eastern Circuit from October 3, 1995, until December 31, 1998, in succession to Mr Justice Waller.

Mr Justice Forbes to be a Presiding Judge of the Northern Circuit from August 1, 1995, to December 31, 1999, in succession to Mr Justice Morland.

Mr Justice Maurice Kay to be a Presiding Judge of the Wales and Chester Circuit from January 1, 1996, to December 31, 1999, in succession to Mr Justice Scott Baker.

Miss Diana Barbara Eaglestone to be a Circuit Judge, assigned to the Northern Circuit.

Mr Michael Edward Curzon Lewis to be a full-time Immigration Adjudicator from May 1.

Retirements
Lord Justice Farquharson retired as a Lord Justice of Appeal yesterday.

Mr Justice Ewbank retired as a High Court Judge on April 24.

BMD'S: 0171 782 7272
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

I am the Lord, and there is none other. I the Lord speak what is right, I declare what is just.
Isaiah 45 : 18.19 (REB)

BIRTHS

BARRON - On April 26th, to Alice and John, a son, Charles Alexander, a brother to Charlotte, Georgina and Victoria.

BIBERFELD - On April 24th at the Wellington Hospital, a beautiful baby girl, Sarah Eve, sister to Maiki Deborah and Zvi Ari.

BROWNE - On April 21st, at Pembury Hospital, to Sara (née Washington) and Chris, a son, Harrison Lucas, a brother for Louis, William, Jonas and Samuel.

CLEAVER - On April 23rd, at 00.43, to Nadia and Marcus, a daughter, Rebecca Ann Mary.

FLANDERS - On 15th April, to Richard and Louise (née Peel), a son, Richard Charles Robert, a brother to Rachel Louise.

FORSYTH-FORREST - On April 18th, to Julia (née Griffith) and Mark, a daughter, Alicia Katharine.

GARNER - On April 2nd, at University College Hospital, to Rebecca (née Atkins) and David, a daughter, Victoria Poppy, a sister for Harriet.

GHAIDAN - On April 19th, to Rosemary (née Borton) and Karim, a daughter, Isabelle, a sister for Sam.

GORMAN - On April 23rd 1995, to Amanda (née Lance) and Dan, a daughter, Elizabeth Mary Anne.

HARGREAVES - On April 23rd, to Gilly (née Phillips) and Robin, a son, Alexander Samuel, a brother to Thomas and Oliver.

MORRISSEY - On April 27th, to Lucy (née Piper) and Charles, a daughter, Emily Caroline, a sister for Henry.

MORSHEAD - On April 24th, to Fiona (née Campbell-Ross) and Hugh, a daughter, Melissa.

PEPPIATT - On April 27th, to Sophia (née Sladden) and Stephen, a son, Jonathan James Kerrison, a brother for Edmund.

SHROFF - On April 27th 1995 to Romila (née Sehgal) and Jal at the Wellington Hospital, a son weighing 7.2lbs.

TAYLOR - On April 22nd at The Portland Hospital, to Mark and Vivienne, a wonderful son - Angus Alan Earnest - a first grandchild and nephew.

WELD - On April 26th, at Dorchester Hospital, to Charles and Georgina, a daughter, Katharine Frances. A sister for Frederick.

DEATHS

AKRED - Phyllis, on 24th April 1995 at home in Oxford. Will be greatly missed by her wide circle of friends. Funeral Service on Monday 1st May at 4 pm at Oxford Crematorium. All enquiries to Reeves and Pain, 288 Abingdon Road, Oxford, (telephone 01865 242629).

ATTERBURY - David Wynyard Atterbury, M.A.(Cantab.) at Princess Margaret's Hospital Swindon on April 19th 1995. Injured in the Army in 1943. Former medical student at Barts Hospital, co-founder and principal of Hephaistos School for severely disabled boys. Dearly loved Husband of Moira, Father of Richard and Jennifer, Brother of Rowley and Susan. An inspiration to all who knew him. Funeral Service 1 pm Wednesday May 3rd Ogbourne St George Parish Church, near Marlborough followed by interment at Saltwell Park Cemetery Gateshead on Thursday May 4th. Flowers to Co-op Funeral Service, Windy Nook Road, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear.

AUSTIN - Frank Augustine. Peacefully at Addenbrooke's Hospital on Wednesday, 26th April, 1995, aged 86. Reunited, after only a brief separation of 58 days, with Sigrid, his beloved wife for nearly 58 years. Much loved brother of Winifred, and father of John, Michael, Charlotte and Peter, and splendid grandfather to the 10 grandchildren. Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary the Virgin, Linton, Cambridgeshire at 11.45 am on Wednesday 3rd May, preceded by private cremation service. No flowers, please, donations for NSPCC may be sent c/o H.J. Paintin Ltd., 43 High Street, Linton, Cambs. CB1 6HS.

BEAK - On 26th April 1995, aged 82, Percival George MBE (Percy), much loved husband of Margaret and of Vera (d.1974), loving father and grandfather of Geraldine, Robin and family; formerly Director of Commonwealth Forestry Bureau. Funeral arrangements: contact R. Barker (01235) 810033.

BLACKNEY - On April 26th 1995, in Torbay Hospital, Dr. Roger, beloved husband of Joan, dearly loved father of Sarah, Anna, Gina and Jonathan and devoted grandpa of Michael, Caroline, Amy and Louisa. Thanksgiving Service on Wednesday May 3rd at 12 noon at St Matthias Church, Wellswood. Garden flowers only. If desired donations to Torbay Hospital or R.N.L.I. c/o Torbay and District Funeral Service, 11 Babbacombe Road, Torquay. tel: (01803) 316006.

BONSOR - Elizabeth, Lady Bonsor, on Wednesday 26th April, at Princess Margaret Hospital, Windsor, peacefully after a long illness aged 74, widow of Bryan. Funeral at Soulbury Church on Thursday May 4th at 11.30 am. Family flowers only; donations to The Stroke Association if wished.

CARTER - On 24th April 1995, William (Bill) Henry Carter, beloved husband of Joan and much loved father and grandfather. Mercifully released from a period of illness, borne with courage and resolution. Funeral Service at St Peter's Church, Wickham Road, Brockley, London SE4 1LT, 2 pm 5th May. Family flowers only. Donations to R.N.L.I., Poole, Dorset or St Peter's Church.

CARTER - Doris Margaret on April 26th peacefully at Austenwood Nursing Home, Gerrards Cross aged 95 years; dearly loved Mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral on Wednesday May 3rd at 11.30am at All Saints Church, Oval Way, Gerrards Cross, followed by private cremation. No flowers, donations in lieu if desired to Dr. Barnardos.

CLOUTING - Peacefully on April 26th, at Victoria Cottage Hospital, Emsworth, Sybil Lillian (Billie), widow of Dr. Frank Clouting, much loved mother of John, grandmother of Nicholas and Rupert. Funeral Service on Tuesday May 2nd at 4 pm Chichester Crematorium. Family flowers only but donations, if desired, to Cancer Research may be sent to W. Wraight & Son, The Square, Emsworth. (01243) 372288.

COX - On 22nd April 1995, peacefully at Tarvin Hall Nursing Home, Alberta Alice, aged 82 years, formerly of Woodcote, Wicker Lane, Guilden Sutton, widow of John Arthur Cox and mother of Heather, Margaret and Maxwell. The funeral service has taken place at St John's Church, Guilden Sutton.

CRAXTON - Sqn. Ldr. Timothy Craxton D.F.C. R.A.F. retd., eldest son of Harold and Essie, died Princetown, N.J., U.S.A., on 25th April, aged 78. No flowers. Donations to The Craxton Memorial Trust, 14 Kidderpore Avenue, Hampstead, NW3.

CROMBIE - Margaret Dorothy, sister of the late Charles and Betty, died peacefully at Gloucester, April 23rd in her ninetieth year. Funeral Service at St Catharine's Church, Monday May 1st at 2 pm.

JACKSON - On 26th April 1995, peacefully after a short illness at Gloucester House, Sevenoaks, Margaret Jamie, aged 86 years, widow of Charles Hollingsworth. Dearly loved mother of Hugh and Ruth and granny to Felicity, Christopher, Hugo and Fergus. Service at Tunbridge Wells Crematorium on Friday 5th May at 12 noon. Family flowers only.

JACK - Tania Louise, aged 34, of Glaston, Leicestershire, on Tuesday 25th April, tragically following a traffic accident. Darling wife of Donald and adored mother of Daniel and Sophie, beloved daughter of Tamara and George Ord, treasured sister of Nick and sister-in-law Gertrude. Funeral at St Andrew's Parish Church, Glaston, Uppingham, on Friday 28th April at 2 pm followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, but donations, if desired, to Neurosciences Critical Care Unit, Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge. c/o R.J. Scholes Funeral Directors, 18 Empingham Road, Stamford, PE9 2RH.

KADOORIE - Sir Horace Kadoorie, CBE, passed away peacefully on Saturday, 22nd April, 1995, aged 92. Sadly missed by all his family.

MACKENZIE - Kenneth Edward Mackenzie C.M.G., on 24th April, husband of Phyllis, father of John, grandfather of Henrietta and William. Funeral Service at St James, Pangbourne, 2.30pm Friday 5th May.

MANNERS - On April 26th, peacefully in Devizes Hospital, Mary, much loved wife, mother and grandmother. Funeral 2.30pm Thursday 4th May Great Cheverell.

McWATTERS - On April 26th, Keith Gordon, suddenly in hospital in Liverpool. Beloved husband of Penny and much loved father of Harriet and Esther, greatly missed by family and friends. Funeral Service in St Brides Church, Lochranza, Isle of Arran, on Tuesday 2nd May at 12 noon. Flowers, Florette, Ardrossan tel: (01294) 461957.

O'NEILL - On 22nd April, peacefully in Alton, Desmond O'Neill MBE, aged 87 years, beloved husband of the late Elizabeth. Funeral Service on 5th May at 12 noon at Aldershot Crematorium. Enquiries c/o Kemp & Stevens, (01420) 83177.

POPE - On April 26th at Furze Hill Lodge, Susie Annie, Lady Pope, aged 99 years. Widow of Sir George Pope and beloved mother of Geoffrey. Funeral at Trinity Church, Sutton, on Thursday May 4th at 3 pm. No flowers please but a donation to NCH Action for Children would be appreciated.

RIGBY - On 27th April 1995, peacefully at Bournemouth, Raymund George Vaughan Rigby M.A., aged 89 years. Sometime Headmaster of Hallfield Preparatory School and also of Stonyhurst Preparatory School; beloved husband of Mary and dear brother of Ursula. Requiem Mass Thursday 4th May, 12.15 pm, at the Sacred Heart Church, Richmond Hill, interment following. Floral tributes to Deric Scott, Portman Lodge Funeral Home, Bournemouth.

SAID - Peacefully on April 21st, Ann Treacher of Cricklade, dearly loved mother of Sofaya, grandmother of Saskia and Amelia. Private family cremation followed by Service of Thanksgiving at St Sampson's Church, Cricklade, Wilts., 3.30 pm on Tuesday May 2nd. No flowers but donations for Prospect Foundation to Blackwell Funeral Service, Cricklade, Wilts, SN6 6DA.

SMITH - Francis Henry, aged 85, peacefully at home on 25th April. Frank to his friends at C.H. R.Ae.S. and Woking. Leaves wife and three sons who cherish his memory.

SOWERBY - On Maundy Thursday Walter Francis (Jack) aged 90 years at Queen Mary's University Hospital Roehampton London SW15 late of The Royal Star and Garter Home, Richmond. Requiem Mass at St Mary's Church Cadogan Street Chelsea London SW3 at 12.15 pm on Monday 1st May 1995. Family flowers only. Donations to either The Catholic Association or the Order of Malta Volunteers both care of A. France & Son, 45 Lamb's Conduit Street, London WC1N 3NG.

WALL - On April 26th at home, Edward A. (Ted). Beloved husband of Phyll, dearly loved father of Vanessa and Adrian and adored grandad of Heidi, Anoushka, Natasha and Ashley. The funeral service will take place on Tuesday May 2nd at 10.30 am at the Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Hart Street, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only but donations, if desired, to Cancer Research c/o Tomalin & Son, 48 New Street, Henley-on-Thames.

WHITE - George Joseph White, C.Eng., F.I.Mech E. Suddenly on 24th April 1995 of Birkdale, Southport, much loved by his wife Sybil, children Mary-Lou, Edmund and Linda, greatly missed by all who knew him. All funeral enquiries to F.J. Gibbs, Funeral Directors, 6 Clarence Road, Southport, PR8 4BH. tel: (01704) 551666.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

KELLY - Declan. Mrs Christel Kelly wishes to thank all the many friends and colleagues of Declan for their kindness shown to her, the cards and messages of sympathy received in her bereavement. Grateful thanks also, for the donations given for The Moniter Trust and The New Ham Riding School.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

MULLION - Meg. The Memorial Service will be held at St Mary's Church, Cadogan Street, SW3, on Thursday 4th May at 12.15pm.

IN MEMORIAM – PRIVATE

DEAR - Denis Mansfield. Many happy memories of a greatly loved husband and father. Died 28th April 1993. Peggy, Geoffrey and Anne.

GLOVER - Lancelot Linwood (Lance) a beloved husband and loving father. Remembered with love on April 28th your birthday and every day. Happiness and togetherness always. Rita, Lynne and Jessica.

JOSEPH - Ted 28.4.94. Time may hide the heartache, like the smile that hides the tears, but loving thoughts still hold you close despite the passing year. We miss you so much, your ever loving mother Helen and daughter Zoë.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

ALLEN:MOORE - Mike Allen to Lilie Moore on 28th April 1945 in Bermondsey Church. Congratulations. 50 wonderful years!!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spanish Company
Is looking for Mr Carl Grossman. For his own professional interest. Please contact as soon as possible with; DAMM S.A. from Barcelona.
Fax no: 343 415 04 64.

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS

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Cook/Housekeeper. Responsible to the House Manager. The cooking of meals for family & staff, also capable of small luncheon and dinner parties where cooking and presentation are of great importance. Experienced in all domestic routines, account shopping and supervision of daily staff.

Separate application for these two appointments will be considered, as single occupancy accommodation is available.

Write giving full details of past experience and positions held over the past ten years to Box No 5866

ANNOUNCEMENTS

KEATING, MARK (Goldfish). Happy Wedding Day, darling. This is for keeps! I love you - don't forget. Your Dais.

ST JOHN AMBULANCE London (Prince of Wales's) District thank all contributors to their 1994 Street Collections which produced the following sums:- Metropolitan Police Area, 23rd July, £42,984, less expenses £1,141; City of London Police Area, 27th May £10,800 less expenses £168.

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LEGAL NOTICES

Roxborough Financial Management Limited
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, on 4th May 1995 at 15.00 for the purposes provided in Section 99 et seq. A list of names and addresses of the above company's creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00am to 4.00pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors. DATED THIS 24th April PAUL ERIC HUDSON - Director

In the Matters of [illegible] Limited AND [illegible] Securities Limited The Insolvency Act and Rules 1986 In accordance with Rule 4.106, I, D J Buchler of Buchler Phillips, 84 Grosvenor Street, London, W1X 9DF, give notice that on 8 March 1995 I was appointed Joint Liquidator of the above Companies by resolution of members and this was followed by an adjourned Meeting of creditors on 12 April 1995. Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above named companies, which are being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before 31 May 1995 to send in their full Christian and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned D J Buchler of 84 Grosvenor Street, London, W1X 9DF, the Joint Liquidator of the said companies, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Joint Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution. Dated 20 April 1995 D J Buchler, Joint Liquidator

LEGAL NOTICES

ADVERTISEMENT OF REGISTRATION OF ORDER FOR CANCELLATION OF THE SHARE PREMIUM ACCOUNT
Petitioner: International Communication & Data plc
No. 001606 of 1995
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION & DATA PLC
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 12th April 1995 confirming the cancellation of the share premium account of the above-named Company was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 13th April 1995
DATED THIS 28th DAY OF (April) 1995
Olswang
90 Long Acre
London WC2E 9TT
Solicitors for the above-named company

B F D UK Limited
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, on 4th May 1995 at 12.00 for the purposes provided in Section 99 et seq. A list of names and addresses of the above company's creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00am to 4.00pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors. DATED THIS 20th April 1995 Debra Ann [illegible] - Director

COLESLAW 196 LIMITED
In Administrative Receivership
Registered Number: [illegible]
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 48 of the Insolvency Act, that a general meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above-named company will be held at 8 Baker Street, London W1M 1DA on 10 May 1995 at 10.00 hrs for the purpose of having a report laid before the meeting and of hearing any explanation that may be given by the Administrative Receivers. Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented.

Please note that a creditor is entitled to vote only if he has delivered to the Administrative Receivers at BDO Stoy Hayward, 8 Baker Street, London, W1M 1DA, not later than 12.00 hrs on 9 May 1995 details in writing of the debt claimed to be due from the company, and the claim has been duly admitted under the provisions of The Insolvency Rules 1986 and there has been lodged with the Administrative Receivers any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf.
P R Copp
Joint Administrative Receiver

مكتبة الأهرام

OBITUARIES

PETER WRIGHT

Peter Wright, former Security Service Officer and author of *Spycatcher*, died yesterday in Tasmania aged 78. He was born in Chesterfield on August 9, 1916.

WHEN he retired from MI5 in January 1976, Peter Wright's name was known only to a select group of individuals within Whitehall. The next decade was to change all that. By breaking all the rules, and going public with his memoirs as a "spook", Wright ensured not just that his book *Spycatcher* became a world bestseller but also that he himself emerged as the best-known counter-intelligence operative outside the pages of John le Carré.

His original quarrel with the British Government was said to lie in a feeling of bitterness over his pension — which, at barely £2,000 a year, was not, he thought, commensurate with his services over more than twenty years to the State. But there was a subplot, involving his suspicions of Sir Roger Hollis, the former head of MI5, who — Wright had convinced himself — was a Soviet agent. These groundless suspicions were shared by others — notably Victor Rothschild and the journalist Chapman Pincher, both of whom played some part in encouraging (and, in Rothschild's case, facilitating with cash) the writing of his book.

In retirement Wright had gone to live in Tasmania, where he bred horses, thus prudently placing himself beyond the jurisdiction of the British courts. Two years of legal effort by the Thatcher Government, both in Australia and in Britain designed to secure the suppression of the book, eventually ended in ignominious failure when in 1988 the House of Lords unanimously refused to grant an injunction forbidding the media from reproducing detailed allegations that had already been widely published abroad. This meant that *Spycatcher* — like those green editions of the Olympia Press much smuggled in from abroad — could at last be placed on sale in this country. Its eventual worldwide sales were claimed to have topped three million copies.

In truth, though, Wright himself in the murky world of espionage and counter-espionage was never much more than a technician — "We bugged and burgled our way across London" he boasted in *Spycatcher*. The first specialist scientist to be hired by MI5, he had secret work in his background as his father, Maurice Wright (who became chief scientist at Marconi), had served with MI6 during the First World War. This enabled Peter Wright himself to claim that "the thread of secret intelligence work had run through the family through four and a half decades" — though his critics were entitled to reply that the word "secret" in his own case was scarcely the *mot juste*.

Peter Wright was born in Chesterfield, arriving prematurely because of the shock to his mother caused by a nearby Zeppelin raid. He was brought up in a house near Chelmsford which — scattered with examples of his father's work — resembled a wireless factory.

Wright was a sickly child. He had a terrible stammer, developed rickets and wore leg irons almost into his teens. He left the independent school of Bishop's Stortford College in 1931 but with no immediate prospect of going on to university — his father at the time was unemployed. The young Wright advertised in the personal column of *The Times* for any work and, as a result, he was taken on as a labourer on a farm near Wester Ross in the Highlands. He enjoyed the experience and later referred to agriculture as "the greatest love of my life". When the farmer was evicted by her landlord in 1935, Wright joined the School of Rural Economy in Oxford and, a year later in 1938, he married his wife Lois.

During the war he worked with the Admiralty Research Laboratory. He had no formal qualifications for the job but he argued persuasively that he had learnt as much about electronics watching his father in his childhood as he could have done at university. He taught himself physics in the evening and from 1942 he found a job with the first anti-midget-submarine detection systems, used in order to protect the landing of ships during the Torch Operation in North Africa in 1942.

At the end of the war he sat for the Scientific Civil Service competition and passed out joint first with 290 marks out of 300. For four years he was a principal scientific officer at the Services Electronics Research Laboratory. In 1950 he started to work as an adviser to MI5 on bugging equipment and he joined MI5 full-time in 1955.

From the beginning he appears to have been told that the ordinary route to promotion, leading eventually to one of the Service's six directorships, would not be open to him as a late-joining specialist. His training began under Sir John Cuckney (later chairman of Westland Helicopters) whom, he was later to write, he found "altogether different from the average MI5 officer". This was plainly intended as a compliment — Wright never made any secret of the fact that he found the majority of his colleagues snobbish, toffee-nosed types for whom he had little time.

The other trouble was that his professional proficiency — he was the master of microphones and "bugging" devices — outran his intellectual capacity. He thus became an easy victim of the more lurid melodramatic stories — like that claiming that the KGB had poisoned Hugh Gaitskell — put forward by the exotically named CIA Chief of Counter-Intelligence, James Jesus Angleton. Wright became, indeed, a pushover for conspiracy theories of all kinds and was one of the group of "cowboys" within MI5 who allowed themselves to be persuaded that the then Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, had compromising communist associations.

It was his claim that his own suspicions in this regard were widely shared within MI5 that provided the stick of dynamite in his book. But when, after *Spycatcher's* British publication in 1988, he was interviewed on a special edition of *Panorama* on BBC Television in October of that year he appeared to back away from this allegation and eventually was forced to concede that only one of his colleagues seriously supported his own views.

With his wide-brimmed hat and dark cloak Wright himself began, in fact, to look increasingly like a figure of fantasy. In his latter years he did not enjoy good health — he suffered from both a heart condition and diabetes — and played a minimal part even in the famous court case in Australia, immortalised by the notorious admission of the then Secretary to the Cabinet, Sir Robert Armstrong, that he had deliberately been "economical with the truth".

The publication of *Spycatcher* brought Wright a fortune — conservatively estimated at £1 million — but he was not really in a position to enjoy it. He never returned to Britain, where he would almost certainly have been open to a civil suit for breach of contract, if not actual prosecution under the Official Secrets Act. In addition to *Spycatcher*, he wrote another book, *The Encyclopaedia of Espionage*, published in Australia in 1991, which caused few waves anywhere.

At the time of his death he was said to be writing another work — a spy-thriller based, it was claimed, on real events. This was designed to be a sequel to his initial volume which was subtitled, somewhat misleadingly, *The Candid Autobiography of a Senior Intelligence Officer* (MI6 was justifiably proud of the fact that he had never been one of theirs). The truth also was that the success of *Spycatcher* was almost entirely due to Paul Greengrass, a journalist and member of the Granada *World in Action* team, who effectively "ghosted" it.

Peter Wright is survived by his wife Lois, two daughters and a son.

GEORGE WILLIAMS

George Williams, music-hall comedian, died in London on April 23 aged 84. He was born in Liverpool on May 25, 1910.

AFTER walking on stage wearing a cloth cap and in white face make-up, George Williams would wait for the applause to die down and then say, in a broad Lancashire accent: "I'm not well... I'm not well at all... In fact I'm... proper poorly!"

It was a catchphrase that seldom failed to produce delighted laughter and more applause, striking a chord, as it did, with the preoccupation of postwar audiences with the state of their health.

George Williams's comic antennae were acutely attuned to the down-to-earth subjects that tickled the fancy of variety theatregoers and his timing was superb. At his best he was compared to Max Wall and Sid Fields but as a result of an unfortunate incident he was destined never quite to realise his full potential.

For many years his use of the "proper poorly" patter provoked fierce rows between Williams and a fellow music-hall comedian, Reg "Confidentially Yours" Dixon, who claimed that this material was originally his.

Dixon, however, was 20 years younger than Williams and thus less likely to have been the originator. But the showbusiness dispute was never entirely resolved and continues to rage between devotees of the two comics. Whatever the view, few challenged the fact that Williams was one of Britain's most accomplished music-hall performers.

George Williams was born into a farming family which moved when he was still a child to Nottingham. In his early teenage years he joined local concert parties, singing songs and appearing in small sketches.

In his twenties he went into the Army and began performing in forces shows, eventually joining ENSA. After the war he developed his craft further, becoming a top-of-the-bill comic on the Moss Empires circuit of variety theatres alongside such stars as Gracie Fields and Jessie Matthews. He was also featured frequently on such BBC radio shows as *Variety Bandbox*, *Midday Music Hall* and *Workers' Playtime*.

Williams was what was widely known as a camp performer. He always presented himself on stage as a rather effeminate character, sometimes taking on the guise of a limp-wristed soldier. At the height of his career, in 1952, he was arrested and charged with a homosexual offence. This was five years before a royal commission headed by Sir John Wolfenden recommended the legalisation of homosexual acts between consenting adults and Williams was sentenced to two years' imprisonment.

The conviction effectively ended his career as a top-of-the-bill performer in the leading theatres. He was dropped by the Moss Empires circuit and by the BBC and for the next ten years was consigned to the showbusiness wilderness.

Not until the late 1960s was he able to make anything like a professional comeback. Then, by appearing at venues such as the Establishment Club in Soho, he was rediscovered by a younger generation. During the 1970s he became a popular guest star at the few venues still providing live variety-style entertainments around the country and in 1985 made a triumphant appearance at a gala show at the London Palladium as a special guest of the British Music Hall Society, receiving a standing ovation.

In 1992 he published his autobiography *Hang On a Tick*. It had an introduction by the French mime artiste Marcel Marceau, who described Williams as "Britain's most underrated comedian".

Williams was a tireless worker for charity, particularly the Variety Artistes Ladies Guild, and in 1990 was made life president of the Derbyshire and Nottingham Music Hall Society.

He was a devout Quaker, having been a member of the Society of Friends for 37 years. When asked recently on television about his faith he said: "I couldn't have got through my whole life in showbusiness without being a Quaker. Showbiz is topsy-turvy — but as a Quaker you take things a bit more simply. I have to have my silence."

George Williams was unmarried; he is survived by a niece.

WOLFGANG HERRMANN

Wolfgang Herrmann, art historian, died on April 17 aged 95. He was born on August 17, 1899.

IN THE first half of his lengthy and productive life Wolfgang Herrmann endured many of the trials and tribulations attending this century's political upheavals. Born in Berlin, he saw the happy circumstances of his youth interrupted by the First World War, in which he served with a German artillery unit in 1917-18.

After the war he first pursued engineering at the Eidgenössischen Technische Hochschule in Berlin but remained there for only one term. He developed an interest in philosophy and transferred to the University of Freiburg. He took his doctorate in 1924 with a dissertation on Baroque monasteries.

In 1925 he embarked on his career as an assistant curator at the Staatliches Kunstgewerbemuseum in Berlin. Two years later, through the support of Kurt Glaser, he was promoted to the post of Keeper of Prints and Drawings at the Staatliche Kunstbibliothek, also in Berlin. In 1927 he married Anni Marx, with whom he would share the next 67 years.

During his six-year tenure at the Kunstbibliothek, Herrmann began to follow seriously the course of modern architecture and contemporary avant-garde movements. He first met Walter Gropius and Kurt Schwitters and established contacts with various other architects involved in German Modernism.

He published several articles on the new movement and these efforts led to the preparation of a two-volume book on German architecture in the 19th and 20th centuries. Only the first volume had appeared when the young historian, in 1933, was dismissed from his government position because of his Jewish birth. Sensing the persecution about to unfold, Herrmann followed the lead of his wife's father and quickly moved his family to England.

The relocation — and the geographical and psychological break that it entailed — proved a serious setback to his career. For the next twenty years he was forced to abandon art history and worked in several business ventures in London.

In the early 1950s, thanks in part to his successful entrepreneurship and a pension from the German Government, Herrmann was able to return to his preferred field of interest, urged on in England by such close friends as Nikolaus Pevsner, Anthony Blunt, and Rudolf Wittkower. The first fruit of his labour was *Laugier and Eighteenth Century French Theory* (1962). His next book, *The Theory of Claude Perrault* (1973), once again brought to the fore a major figure of French architectural thought. A third book to emerge from his interest in French theory was a translation (together with Anni Herrmann) of Marc-Antoine Laugier's *An Essay on Architecture*.

In the late 1970s Herrmann shifted his attention back to German theory, and here perhaps his greatest contribution to art history was made. He focused on the 19th-century architect, Gottfried Semper. Between 1978 and 1984 Herrmann produced three books on Semper: *Gottfried Semper im Exil* (a biographical account of Semper's years in political exile); *Gottfried Semper: Theoretischer Nachlass an der ETH* (a compilation of the many theoretical manuscripts at the Semper Archives in Zurich) and *Gottfried Semper in Search of Architecture* (an English expansion of his first German study on the architect's years in exile). The exhaustive work of compiling Semper's voluminous papers, which has allowed future generations greater access to this influential architect and thinker's ideas, may well prove to be Herrmann's most enduring achievement.

In Herrmann's last book, *In What Style Should We Build? The German Debate on Architectural Style* (1992), the nonagenarian historian explored yet another realm of theory that had previously received little scrutiny: the German style debate of the 1820s, 1830s and 1840s. This work unearthed another body of material that will have great relevance for later studies on the roots of European Modernism.

His wife died in 1994 and he is survived by a daughter and a son.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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ON THIS DAY

April 28 1945

A chorus of approval from the Allied leaders greeted the symbolic link-up of Russian and American troops at Torgau on the bank of the River Elbe.

GERMANY CUT IN TWO

The following announcement was made last night from 10, Downing Street:——

"General Eisenhower reports that firm contact has been established between his ground forces and those of our Soviet allies. The commanders of a United States division and of a Russian Guards division met at Torgau on April 26 at 4 p.m. The mutual exchange of allied prisoners of war was discussed. The first contact between patrols took place at 4.40 p.m. on April 25, when a first lieutenant and three men of an intelligence and reconnaissance platoon of the United States division met forward elements of the Russian Guards division."

Moscow wireless announced the link up simultaneously in an order of the day by MARSHAL STALIN which was addressed to the 1st Ukrainian Command and to British and American troops. It stated:——

"Troops of the 1st Ukrainian command and the British and American troops, by blows from east and west, have cut the front of the German troops, and on April 25, at 1.30 p.m., linked up in the centre of Germany in the area of the town of Torgau. The German troops in northern Germany have thus been cut off from the German troops in Germany's southern area. To mark this victory, and in honour of this historic event to-day, April 27, at 7 p.m., Moscow, the capital of our native land, will, in the name of the country, salute the valiant troops of the 1st Ukrainian command and our allied British and American troops with 24 salvos from 324 guns."

GENERAL BRADLEY, Commander of the United States 12th Army Group, last night issued the following order of the day to the troops under his command:——

"At 4.30 p.m. on April 25, 1945, in the twenty-ninth month of our war against the German Government, American troops of the 12th Army Group linked up with Soviet elements of the 1st Ukrainian Army Group under Marshal Konev. These have come to meet you from the ruins of Stalingrad and Sevastopol, across the devastated towns of the Ukraine. In two years they have advanced 2,240 kilometres and forced the Germans to abandon Russia, and pursued them up to the Elbe river. Across 5,600 kilometres of ocean you have forced the enemy defence line which had been built on the coast during many years."

PRESIDENT TRUMAN:——

"The junction of our forces at this moment signalizes to ourselves and to the world that the collaboration of our nations in the cause of peace and freedom is an effective collaboration which can surmount the greatest difficulties of the most extensive campaign in military history and succeed. Nations which can plan and fight together in the face of such obstacles of distance and of language as we have overcome can live together and work together in the organization of the world for peace."

THE TIMES TODAY

FRIDAY APRIL 28 1995

NEWS

Nurses move to end no-strike rule

■ Nurses moved closer to taking industrial action than at any point in the history of the health service when leaders of the Royal College of Nursing called for an end to its no-strike policy.

The unanimous decision by the 25-member governing council is a damaging blow to the Government and marks a breakdown in the consensus that has kept the peace with nurses for the past 40 years .... **Page 1**

Churchill defends sale of archive

■ Winston Churchill defended himself in the growing storm over the sale of his grandfather's papers by declaring that Britain's wartime leader had wanted his family to benefit from them. The Conservative MP claimed that they could have sold for £25 million on the open market........ **Pages 1, 7, 18, 19**

Divorce shake-up

Lord Mackay of Clashfern unveiled the new government strategy on marriage and divorce with a hope that his shake-up of divorce laws would swiftly be implemented........ **Pages 1, 4**

Royal trip to Republic

The Prince of Wales is to visit the Irish Republic in the summer, the first member of the Royal Family to travel there in an official capacity since Partition .... ***Page 1***

Electrical inquiry

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission is launching an inquiry into electrical goods after suggestions that prices may have been kept artificially high by the manufacturers .... **Page 2**

Spycatcher dead

Peter Wright, the MI5 officer whose wrote *Spycatcher*, has died in Tasmania leaving another secret manuscript for possible publication .... **Page 2**

School bus protest

A proposal to deprive pupils at eight Essex grammar schools of free transport offered to comprehensive schools may be dropped after protests by thousands of parents and children........ **Page 5**

Seamen liberated

The Bulgarian seamen who had been stranded in appalling conditions on a rusting hulk off Shetland flew home with some of the money owed to them........ **Page 6**

Timely windfall

The National Lottery windfall could not have come at a better time for Winston Churchill, after big Lloyd's losses and the break-up of his marriage .... **Page 7**

Tory poll gloom

The Tories' poll ratings have levelled off since the new year after a lengthy decline, but there are no signs of underlying improvement in the public's view of the Government, MORI said........ **Page 8**

Il Duce death 'faked'

A book on Mussolini says left-wing partisans faked his execution by firing into his corpse after he had already been shot, possibly by British agents........ **Page 10**

Tribute to Nazi victims

Germany paid tribute to the victims of the Holocaust, promising that the fate of those murdered by the Nazis would not be forgotten when fiftieth anniversary commemorations ended .... **Page 11**

Vive la Hillary

Lionel Jospin, the Socialist presidential candidate in France, is having trouble casting himself as a new man in the Clinton mould. He does, however, have one thing in common with the US President — a high-powered wife... **Page 12**

Citizens 'threatened'

A poll found that 39 per cent of Americans feel the Government "poses an immediate threat to their rights" .... **Page 13**

Social-climbers bought bogus titles

■ Rich Americans were swindled out of about £53,000 for titles they believed would bring them close to royalty. A New York attorney believed that by buying the title Lord of Bradley and the Moors he was entitled to travel in the eighteenth carriage in Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's birthday celebration procession, a court was told........ **Page 3**

MICHAEL POWELL

Andy Sawyer starting to erect 5,000 seats in one of the stands constructed in Hyde Park for the *VE-Day* commemorations *next month*

BUSINESS

Lloyd's: "Names" are to be asked to find up to £1.5 billion in cash this summer but many of them do not have the resources to meet the bills, according to Chatset, the independent analyst .... **Page 23**

ICI: Sir Denys Henderson retired as chairman after announcing a buoyant set of figures for the first quarter........ **Page 23**

Pay defended: The Chancellor is to defend the salaries of the heads of privatised utility in a speech that will be strongly supportive of privatisation........ **Page 23**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index fell 8.6 to close at 3217.6. Sterling's trade-weighted index remained unchanged at 84.7 after a rise from $1.6108 to $1.6180 but a fall from DM2.2253 to DM2.2207 ... **Page 26**

SPORT

Snooker: Stephen Hendry scored a 147 maximum break in the semi-final of the Embassy world championship in Sheffield. He leads Jimmy White 8-7........ **Page 44**

Football: Eric Cantona is set to stay with Manchester United on a new three-year contract, ending speculation that he would move to Milan........ **Page 44**

Cricket: Andrew Symonds, 19, making his county championship debut for Gloucestershire, scored 161 not out off 140 balls against Surrey at the Oval........ **Page 39**

Motor racing: Jean Alesi was fastest in preliminary practice for the San Marino Grand Prix. Nigel Mansell, making his first appearance of the season, was in eighth position........ **Page 44**

In for the kill: After 30 years, Frank Marcus's black comedy of lesbianism, *The Killing of Sister George*, retains dramatic power .... **Page 33**

Shrew upturned: With Kate brandishing a shotgun, Shakespeare's text is turned upside down in the Leicester Haymarket staging of *The Taming of the Shrew*, starring Josette Simon........ **Page 33**

Video crazy: More than 70,000 people are expected to gather in Liverpool next week for the Video Positive festival........ **Page 34**

Pop on Friday: Caitlin Moran on the perfect television music presenter; Alan Jackson on the remarkable success of the Irish radio station Atlantic 252; and Davis Sinclair on Take That and the other new albums .... **Page 35**

Howard Davies: "I have always regarded journalism as just a hobby. I think that's how everyone should regard it," the Bank of England's new deputy governor tells Valerie Grove........ **Page 17**

No entry: If every street in London held a party for *VE-Day*, says Margot Norman, then half the guests would be run over .... **Page 16**

Soviet elite: Anne McElvoy takes a journey by Russia's new business class .... **Page 16**

Home bank: A cash machine is being developed to draw "electronic" money from the bank and into your home so that you can pay for goods on the Internet .... **Page 30**

Long play: A digital video machine can record for 49 hours on a standard VHS cassette .... **Page 30**

More than 50,000 Americans died in the Vietnam War. So did more than three million Vietnamese. If American veterans too often received minimal help in recovering, the Vietnamese received even less

— *Los Angeles Times*

"They haven't got their act together," a UN official had the nerve to say about what passes as a Rwandan Government. What about UN peacekeepers who have been standing by as misery mounts?

— *The Washington Post*

The Best Of Curtis Mayfield

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **CD BARGAIN**
Your voucher for £3 off the best of Curtis Mayfield at WH Smith

■ **REVIEWS**
***Jonathan Meades on* The People's Palace; Douglas Hurd on John le Carré**

Preview: *Friends* is a very funny new sitcom about six single twentysomethings in New York (Channel 4, 9.30pm). **Review:** Lynne Truss thinks that Greg Dyke's bid for screen glory, *Fair Game*, aptly mirrored his first subjects, Torvill and Dean, who muscled in on the Olympics at the expense of Britain's truely amateur skaters .... **Page 43**

Ancestral archives

The use of National Lottery money to buy the Chartwell archive, which includes almost everything that Churchill wrote before 1945, could plausibly have been seen as the perfect launch for the fiftieth anniversary of VE-Day .... **Page 19**

Essex values

Essex County Council is poised to deprive many hundreds of children of a chance to benefit from the educational excellence of the country's most successful grammar schools .... **Page 19**

Distress flare

The pillar of fire that rose over Siberia symbolises the catastrophic state of Russia's crumbling oil and gas pipelines .... **Page 19**

NORMAN STONE

In principle, the state papers of government, or perhaps we should say Crown servants, belong in the public record. They had after all public careers and were paid for by the Crown .... **Page 18**

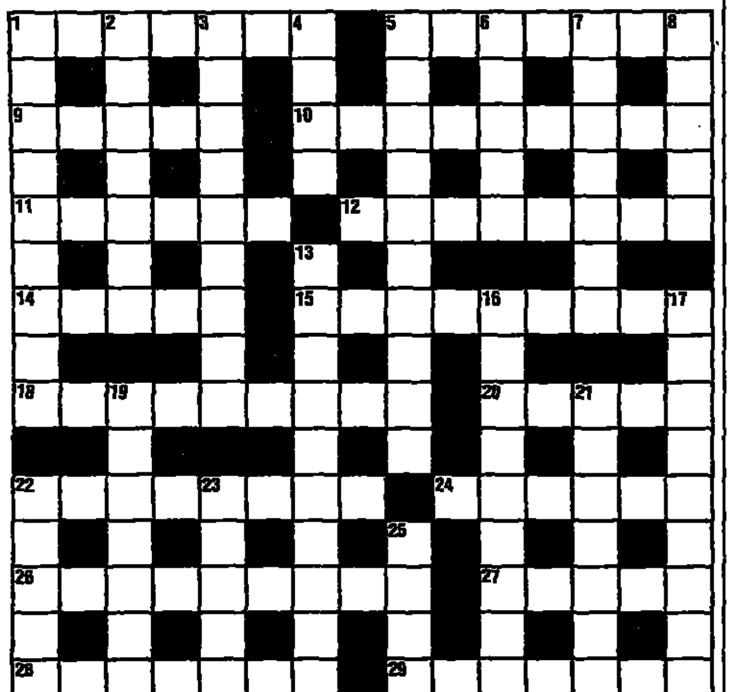
BERNARD LEVIN

The finances of the Channel Tunnel were nothing to do with me (you didn't, surely, think that I would have put money into the thing?), but I should have realised what was happening when throughout the country there was a substantial and sinister run on noughts........ **Page 18**

Peter Wright, *former Security Service officer and author of Spycatcher*; **George Williams**, music hall comedian; **Wolfgang Herrmann**, art historian .... **Page 21**

"Noble gesture" on the Churchill papers; fish farms; change on Arts Council literature panel; Serbia-Bosnia border; identity cards; teachers' outburst .... **Page 19**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,841



ACROSS

1 No government could be so cunning, in any case (7)
5 Leaders of king's enemies talk about bill in parliament (7)
9 Bad break for unfortunate hunter (5)
10 Vessel outside port (9)
11 Disheartened fugitive's flight starts here (6)
12 Not before time, head departs in excellent spirits (8)
14 Dickensian shop-girl's flower (5)
15 Workers who control movements of shares (9)
18 Check on financial position brings about trial (5,4)
20 Engineer current stoppage without union, in fact (5)
22 Drill needed for dentist's work, for example (8)
24 Man cornered, to begin with, in fortress (6)
26 Terrifying arachnid, initially encountered with natural distress (9)
27 That chap will ring — what will you say? (5)
28 Defence side introduced by the beak (7)
29 Historian heard but not seen in Northern town (7)

DOWN

1 Produced thick head in plant in this garden (9)
2 A copperhead snake moving sideways (7)
3 Writer once truly holding leading position (9)
4 Ship's course set northward on lake (4)
5 Nothing in the work gets altered for this book (10)
6 Disease so terminal for wheat? (5)
7 Celebrity has to perform in terribly smart location (7)
8 Cantankerous jury's conclusion after trial (5)
13 Part of Oxford's wine deposit for top people (5,5)
16 Sponsor for film (9)
17 Officer is a relatively insensitive individual (6,3)
19 For meat, for instance, tame a couple of animals (7)
21 Drink with a colleague? Quite so! (7)
22 Rock-rabbit (5)
23 Reliant on garage to provide shelter for this vehicle (5)
25 Pack up the brandy (4)

Solution to Puzzle No 19,840

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Times Two Crossword, page 44

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Wednesday: Highest day temp: Trawscoed, Dyfed, 17C (63F); lowest day max: Cape Wrath, Highland, 5C (41F); highest rainfall: Guernsey Airport, 0.60in; highest sunshine: Tiree, Hebrides, 13.3hr

FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will be dry for the most part with some clear or sunny spells. However, a shower or two may turn up on the East coast and late in the day thickening cloud may bring rain to the far southwest. It will be generally milder after a chilly start.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will also be dry for the most part with clear or sunny intervals. However, some showers are likely in the north of Scotland with sleet or snow on the high ground.

☐ **London, SE England, Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, N Wales, NW England, Central N:** dry with sunny or clear intervals. Winds light and variable in direction. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **E Anglia, E England, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee:** cloudy, with a few clearer or brighter intervals. Isolated light showers. Winds mainly northerly, light. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales:** dry with sunny spells. Cloudy later, perhaps with rain. Winds light and variable, becoming south-easterly, moderate. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland:** dry with clear or sunny interludes. Winds mainly easterly, light. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, NW Scotland:** clear or sunny intervals and isolated showers, wintry on the hills. Winds northerly, light. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Orkney, Shetland:** sunny or clear intervals and showers. Winds north-westerly, moderate. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Outlook:** it will become milder but more unsettled as bands of cloud and rain spread from the west.

AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

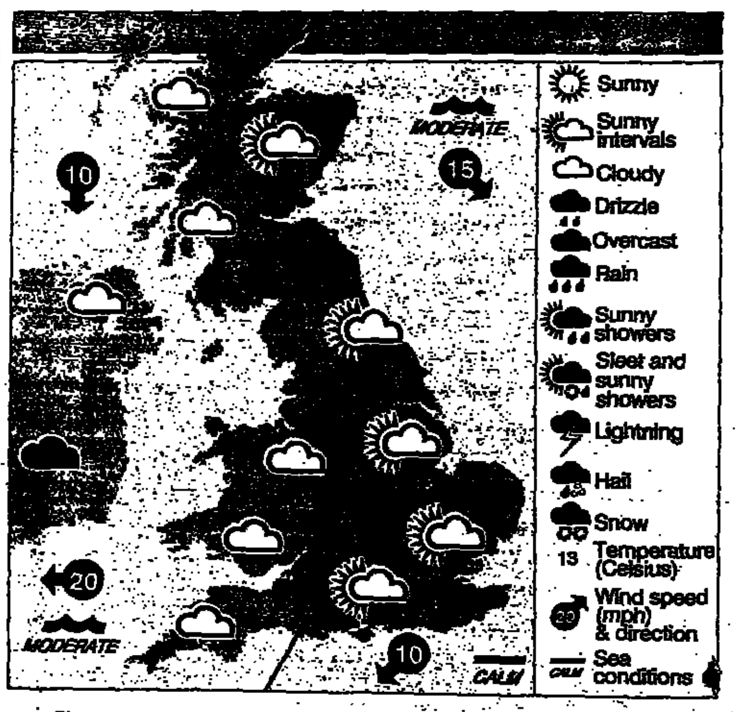
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	0.7	-	8	46	c	Littlehmptn	5.3	0.04	13	55	b
Anglesey	x					Liverpool	9.2	-	14	57	s
Aspatria	8.1	-	11	52	s	London	2.3	0.18	9	48	du
Aviemore	-	0.02	5	41	sl	Lowestoft	8.3	-	X	X	c
Belfast	11.7	-	12	54	s	Manchester	9.4	-	13	55	s
Birmingham	5.5	-	13	55	s	Margate	-	0.09	12	54	du
Bognor R	5.0	0.01	14	57	b	Morecambe	10.3	-	14	57	s
Bournem'th	3.8	-	14	57	b	Newcastle	X				
Bristol	3.3	0.01	13	55	b	Newquay	2.8	-	12	54	c
Buxton	7.8	-	10	50	s	Norwich	2.2	0.01	9	48	d
Cardiff	6.8	-	13	55	s	Nottingham	X				
Clacton	X	-	13	55	b	Oxford	2.3	0.03	11	52	du
Cleethorpes	X					Penzance	-	-	13	55	c
Colwyn Bay	X					Plymouth	2.5	-	13	55	c
Cromer	1.9	0.01	8	46	du	Poole	4.5	-	13	55	b
Doncaster	7.3	-	11	52	s	Prestatyn	-	-	13	55	s
Dunbar	X					Ross-o-wye	5.5	0.05	14	57	s
Eastbourne	8.0	-	15	59	s	Ryde	4.0	-	13	55	s
Edinburgh	5.2	-	9	48	b	Salcombe	2.8	-	12	54	b
Eskdalemuir	7.1	-	8	46	s	Sandown	3.9	0.01	13	55	r
Exmouth	X					Saunton Snd	5.7	-	16	61	s
Falmouth	X	-	13	55	c	Scarboro'	1.4	-	7	45	c
Fishguard	10.3	-	12	54	s	Scilly Isles	2.0	-	11	52	c
Folkestone	9.3	0.02	13	55	s	Shanklin	4.8	0.05	13	55	s
Glasgow	10.3	-	11	52	s	Shrewsbury	8.3	-	14	57	s
Guernsey	-	0.60	11	52	c	Skegness	-	-	8	46	c
Hastings	8.3	-	14	57	s	Southend	X	0.13	X	X	c
Hayling I.	3.6	-	13	55	s	Southsea	4.1	-	X	X	b
Herne Bay	1.7	0.24	12	54	c	Stornoway	6.7	-	7	45	s
Hove	5.5	-	14	57	b	Swanage	2.2	-	12	54	b
Hunstanton	1.6	0.06	7	45	c	Teignmouth	3.5	-	13	55	b
Ilfracombe	X					Tenby	9.0	-	15	59	s
Isle of Man	9.8	-	12	54	s	Tiree	13.3	-	10	50	s
Jersey	-	-	12	54	du	Torquay	3.7	-	13	55	b
Kinloss	0.1	0.01	7	45	sh	Tynemouth	-	-	6	43	du
Leeds	7.3	-	9	48	s	Ventnor	4.7	0.06	13	55	f
Lerwick	0.5	-	7	45	h	Weymouth	5.3	-	13	55	s
Leuchars	7.5	-	9	48	b						

These are Wednesday's figures

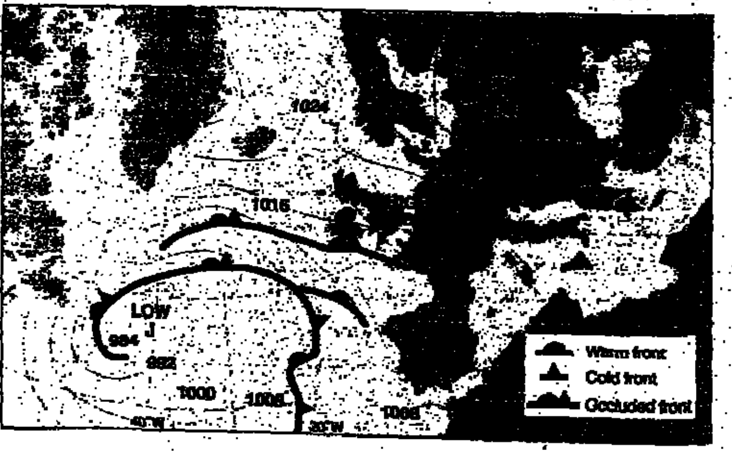
ABROAD

Ajaccio	16	61	f	C'phegn	10	50	c	Madrid	8	46	r	Riyadh	31	88	f
Akrotiri	25	77	s	Corfu	17	63	f	Majorca	20	68	s	Rome	16	61	f
Alex'dria	24	75	s	Dublin	8	46	c	Malaga	18	64	f	Salzburg	13	55	c
Algiers	21	70	s	Dubrovnik	14	57	s	Malta	19	66	f	S F'risco	14	57	s
Amst'dm	10	50	c	Faro	19	66	s	Melb'rne	13	55	f	Santiago	21	70	c
Athens	21	70	f	Florence	14	57	c	Mexico C	20	68	f	S Paulo	24	75	c
Bahrain	29	84	f	Frankfurt	13	55	r	Miami	27	81	c	Seoul	20	68	s
Bangkok	35	95	s	Funchal	20	68	f	Milan	19	66	f	Sing'por	32	90	t
Barbados	24	75	r	Geneva	11	52	r	Montreal	10	50	f	St'kholm	4	39	c
Barcelona	17	63	f	Gibraltar	18	64	f	Moscow	16	61	f	Strasb'rg	15	59	c
Beirut	24	75	s	Helsinki	6	43	c	Munich	10	50	c	Sydney	20	68	f
Belgrade	17	63	f	Hong K	27	81	s	Nairobi	23	73	c	Tel Aviv	28	82	s
Berlin	12	54	s	Innsbrck	13	55	f	Naples	13	55	r	Tenerife	23	73	s
Bermuda	23	73	f	Istanbul	20	68	s	N Delhi	35	95	s	Tokyo	23	73	s
Biarritz	18	64	f	Jeddah	32	90	s	N York	17	63	s	Toronto	8	46	r
Borde'x	17	63	f	Jo'burg	23	73	s	Nice	16	61	f	Tunis	20	68	f
Brussels	9	48	c	Karachi	34	93	s	Oslo	3	37	sl	Valencia	23	73	s
Budapst	12	54	c	L Palmas	21	70	s	Paris	10	50	c	Vanc'ver	15	59	s
B Aires	24	75	s	Le Touqt	11	52	f	Peking	22	72	s	Venice	15	59	c
Cairo	35	95	f	Lisbon	17	63	r	Perth	19	66	f	Vienna	14	57	s
Cape Tn	18	64	s	Locarno	17	63	f	Prague	14	57	c	Warsaw	11	52	c
Chicago	11	52	r	L Angels	17	63	f	Reykjavik	0	32	s	Wash'ton	18	64	s
Ch'church	15	59	-	Luxembg	12	54	c	Rhodes	19	66	s	Wel'ngton	17	63	s
Cologne	12	54	c	Luxor	37	99	s	Rio de J	25	77	f	Zurich	10	50	c

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available



Changes to the chart below from noon: low J will drift northeast and fill slowly; high B will drift east and intensify slightly



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	0:31	7.10	1:01	7.32	Leith	1:46	5.19	1:57	5.28
Aberdeen	0:28	3.90	0:25	3.99	Liverpool	10:19	8.99	10:42	8.85
Avonmouth	6:12	12.73	6:32	12.78	Lowestoft	8:49	2.38	8:46	2.30
Belfast	10:11	3.36	10:31	3.35	Margate	11:28	4.73	11:39	4.64
Cardiff	5:57	12.12	6:19	12.04	Milford Haven	5:15	6.64	5:34	6.62
Devonport	4:41	5.20	5:04	5.21	Newquay	4:00	6.57	4:19	6.56
Dover	10:16	6.21	10:24	6.41	Oban	4:47	3.71	5:00	3.61
Dublin	10:51	3.97	11:17	3.90	Penzance	3:40	5.14	4:02	5.12
Falmouth	4:06	5.04	4:30	4.96	Portland	5:42	1.98	6:08	2.00
Glasgow	11:45	4.62	-	-	Portsmouth	10:31	4.42	10:49	4.60
Harwich	11:04	3.86	11:18	3.78	Shoreham	10:34	5.89	10:52	6.07
Holyhead	9:25	5.32	9:50	5.24	Southampton	9:59	4.25	10:15	4.46
Hull	5:28	6.96	5:29	7.14	Swansea	5:23	9.13	5:40	9.12
Ilfracombe	5:01	8.81	5:21	8.77	Tees	2:38	4.96	2:48	5.08
King's Lynn	5:17	6.39	5:33	6.58	W'ton-on-Nze	11:02	4.06	11:13	3.99

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Sun rises: 5.39 am
Sun sets: 8.18 pm
Moon sets 7.12 pm
Moon rises 5.03 am
New Moon tomorrow

London 8.18 pm to 5.37 am
Bristol 8.28 pm to 5.47 am
Edinburgh 8.45 pm to 5.35 am
Manchester 8.33 pm to 5.40 am
Penzance 8.38 pm to 6.03 am

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY APRIL 28 1995

Names 'face £1.5bn call in summer'

By Sarah Bagnall, Insurance Correspondent

LLOYD'S names are to be asked to find up to £1.5 billion of cash this summer — putting greater financial strain on the already stretched insurance market as many names do not have the resources to meet the bills, according to Chatset, the independent Lloyd's analyst.

Charles Sturge, co-founder of Chatset, said that he believed that names were running out of money and that, as a result, Lloyd's would need to find extra cash from elsewhere. "Lloyd's has a pending cash crisis, not a solvency crisis," he said, adding that he could not rule out Lloyd's "grovelling to the Bank of England".

Lloyd's was quick to retaliate. David Rowland, chairman, said: "Lloyd's is not in discussions with the Bank if England about any 'rescue package', nor do I foresee the need for any such talks as certain commentators have suggested."

Chatset thinks that Lloyd's will be forced to levy names for about £600 million because of the cash crisis. "Our guess is that a further levy has to be imminent or a substantial bank loan, but it's more likely to be a levy," Mr Sturge said.

The levy, which would require names' approval, would only be on underwriting names, but would include the new corporate capital companies. *Mr Sturge said that there would be a "squeal" from corporate capital companies, but added: "I don't think they read the documentation very carefully so I don't have much sympathy for corporate capital if they do squeal about a levy."*

Mr Sturge's remarks came as he disclosed that Chatset expects Lloyd's to announce further losses of £1.47 billion next month. The loss, relating to 1992, pushes total losses made by the insurance market in the past five years to nearly £9 billion.

Looking ahead, Chatset painted a rosier picture. "Both 1993 and 1994 are showing very promising results which may even confound the optimists," Mr Sturge said. The analyst expects Lloyd's to make a profit of £1 billion in *1993 and £800 million in 1994. Mr Sturge said that the only problem in 1994 was that although the amount of money provided to syndicates* had increased, the amount of business written had not, and, as a result, the return to names would be lower.

Referring to the loss expected to be announced at the end of May, Chatset said that about £235 million of the loss relates to risks written in 1992 — the so-called "pure" year loss. This is a sharp drop from the £1.2 billion pure year loss for 1991. The balance of the loss of £1.23 billion relates to deterioration in old years from policies written before 1992. These are the losses made by names stuck on the 478 years of account that have been left open — that is, the risks cannot be reinsured elsewhere because the syndicate cannot quantify losses.

Of these losses, £574 million, equal to 18 per cent, relates to *asbestosis and pollution claims from the US. This is in contrast to previous years, when the losses have been concentrated on so-called "spiral" syndicates, such as those managed by the Gooda* Walker and Feltrim agencies. Spiral losses are now to blame for only 3.5 per cent, or £47 million, of the £1.23 billion deterioration in losses.

There are still substantial losses from previous years that names have not been asked to pay yet. Last year, £1.7 billion was demanded, of which about 40 per cent has not been paid. Further losses of £2.4 billion have not been called.

Of the 1992 loss of £1.47 billion, about £60 million is estimated by Chatset to be agency fees.

The losses have shifted from spiral syndicates to the large *conglomerate-like syndicates, such as Merrett 418.*

Pennington, page 25

Sidika Atalay, whose Deniz Bank is believed to have put up the $7 million for Learned to buy the PPI businesses

Nadir joins board of PPI firm

By Colin Narbrough, World Trade Correspondent

ASIL NADIR, the fugitive former head of the collapsed Polly Peck International (PPI) has become a director of Learned, the company that last month bought most of PPI's northern Cyprus assets from the administrators.

The power behind Mr Nadir's directorship is Sidika Atalay, a wealthy Turkish Cypriot businesswoman, whose Deniz Bank is believed to have put up the $7 million for Learned to acquire the PPI businesses. Speculation is mounting that Ms Atalay intends to use Learned as the vehicle to acquire *PPI's remaining assets in Turkey.*

The official companies register in Nicosia shows that Mr Nadir and Ms Atalay were *appointed to the Learned* board on March 27, three days after the deal to buy PPI assets was signed in London with the administrators.

Elmas Guzelyurtlu, the Turkish Cypriot businessman who signed the agreement, subsequently described as "complete nonsense" rumours in Nicosia that Learned, a shell company with a capital of £500, was a front for Mr Nadir, but said he had started a "good dialogue" with the former head of PPI.

Mr Nadir, who jumped £3.5 million bail in England in 1993, is charged with theft involving £34 million. In his native northern Cyprus, however, he is beyond the reach of English law and has enjoyed powerful political support.

Mr Guzelyurtlu, who quit the Learned board on March 27, remains the owner of 99.9 per cent of the shares in the company, which now has substantial assets, including the Jasmine Court Hotel.

In Nicosia, however, it is widely expected that the ownership will soon change, with Ms Atalay, who last year sold the Istanbul Mövenpick Hotel, gaining control.

A plan for the northern Cyprus government to forgive unpaid taxes, social insurance and pension contributions owed by former PPI businesses, ran into difficulties this week. *Mr Nadir is understood to have been expecting a substantial payment from the government in addition to the* debt forgiveness.

In London on Wednesday, long-suffering creditors of PPI voted overwhelmingly in favour of a plan under which they will receive their first payout since the group collapsed in October 1990.

The initial payout, totalling £23 million, is expected in July on claims worth £1.4 billion.

The chief administrator, Chris Barlow, of Coopers & Lybrand, said realising PPI assets had been fraught with difficulties, with Mr Nadir putting up a barrage of litigation.

Dangers included members of the administrator's team being beaten up and shot at. Mr Guzelyurtlu's bank had been bombed on New Year's Day.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FT-SE 100	3217.6	(-8.6)
Yield	4.24%	
FT-SE A All share	1578.40	(-1.99)
Nikkei	16883.98	(+57.50)
New York:		
Dow Jones	4299.14	(-0.69)*
S&P Composite	512.45	(-0.21)*
US RATE		
Federal Funds	$6\frac{1}{16}$%*	($6\frac{[illegible]}{16}$%)
Long Bond	$103\frac{[illegible]}{32}$*	($103\frac{[illegible]}{32}$)
Yield	7.34%*	(7.32%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	$6\frac{[illegible]}{32}$%	($6\frac{15}{16}$%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	$103\frac{[illegible]}{32}$	($104\frac{1}{16}$)
STERLING		
New York:		
$	1.6155*	(1.6165)
London:		
$	1.6161	(1.6111)
DM	2.2256	(2.2184)
FFr	7.8780	(7.8240)
SFr	1.8335	(1.8336)
Yen	134.09	(135.14)
£ Index	84.7	(84.7)
DOLLAR		
London:		
DM	1.3750*	(1.3682)
FFr	4.8820*	(4.8350)
SFr	1.1345*	(1.1305)
Yen	83.55*	(83.72)
$ Index	87.6	(88.0)
Tokyo close Yen 83.90		
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Jul)	$18.40	($18.20)
GOLD		
London close	$388.95	($388.95)

* denotes midday trading price

Sales drive

Vauxhall, the car group, threw an extra £83 million into discounts and incentives *last year to fend off the sharp dip in car sales. The company yesterday disclosed pre-tax* profits sharply down by £83 million, to £102 million, even though worldwide sales were up by 15 per cent, to 427,000 cars. **Page 24**

Hard knocks

Profits collapsed at Betterware, the door-to-door *catalogue sales group, last year, hit by harsh trading conditions and charges* against restructuring and asset write-downs. **Page 25**

Three to share £1m payout at SBG

By Carl Mortished

THREE directors of Southern Business Group will collect almost £1 million as part of a deal with Alco Standard Corporation, the American company that is offering £81 million in cash for the British office equipment distributor.

David McErlain, SBG's chief executive will be paid £639,000 on completion of the 84p-per-share takeover while Roger Limpenny, group managing director will receive £247,000. The chairman, William Shaw, a non-executive director, will be paid £41,000.

The agreement between the Americans and the SBG directors was struck on April 13, the day on which Alco launched its bid for SBG, trumping a 71p cash offer from Danka Business Systems, which had previously overtaken a 69p cash and shares offer from Berkeley Business Group.

The bidding war for SBG has proved fortunate for Mr McErlain and his colleagues. The directors of SBG pledged their shares to Alco and gave the Americans a call option over their interest, which was exercised on April 13, leaving Mr McErlain, who was interested in 2.47 million shares, with about £2 million, a gain of some £300,000 over the original offer from Berkeley.

□ Berkeley Business Group, said the cost of its lapsed bid for SBG was £450,000, which will be charged in the current year. In 1994, Berkeley reduced taxable losses to £1.2 million from £4.1 million, in spite of charging £500,000 against restructuring. Again, there is no dividend.

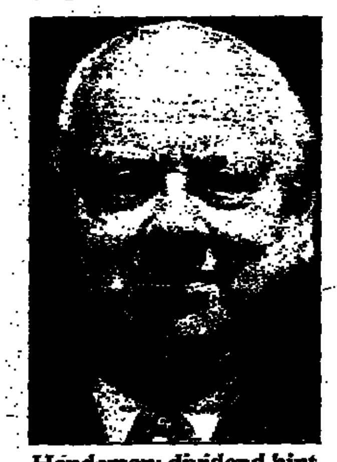
Henderson ends ICI reign with grand finale

By Neil Bennett

SIR Denys Henderson retired as chairman of ICI yesterday after announcing a bumper set of first-quarter figures for the chemicals group.

Sir Denys, architect of ICI's demerger from Zeneca two years ago, bowed out at the group's annual meeting after eight years as chairman. Before the meeting, ICI announced a 137 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, to £244 million, in the first three months of the year, driven by strong demand and rising prices in industrial chemicals. The performance was well above most City forecasts.

At the meeting, Sir Denys disclosed that 12 ICI employees had died last year, 11 in two accidents at the group's explosives business in South Africa, *where the group has recently assumed full management control.* In other parts of the group, the accident record had improved sharply.



Henderson: dividend hint

Sir Denys tantalised shareholders with the prospect of an early rise in the dividend, static since the recession. "I do not believe it will be long before my successors are again considering an increase," he said.

As the meeting closed, Sir David Scholey, chairman of SG Warburg, paid tribute to Sir Denys. "No chairman has done more for ICI or more to ICI than you have," Sir David said. "I have noticed above all that, under fire, you are steady as a rock and, on the move, you are definite and determined."

In the first quarter, ICI saw a 15 per cent surge in sales to £2.48 billion. Volumes rose by 10 per cent and *prices increased by an average of 8 per cent.* The profits included an exceptional £23 million gain on the disposal of the group's ethylene oxide plant on Teesside and a deferred payment from the earlier sale of the polypropylene business.

The main growth came from the industrial chemicals business, in which profits rose by 240 per cent, to £143 million.

Profits in the paints division fell by £3 million, to £14 million, in spite of higher sales, because of higher raw material prices.

Tempus, page 26

Law Society award to Belling Fund

THE Solicitors Complaints Bureau said yesterday that the Law Society had now decided to award £600,000 to the Belling Pension Fund over losses of $3.5 million suffered in the Charles Deacon affair (George Sivell writes).

The Law Debenture Trust Corporation, independent trustee to the Belling Pension Fund, said "although an award of £600,000 is not as much as was claimed it will help to reduce the deficit in the fund for the benefit of members."

Belling went into receivership in May 1992. In May 1991, $3.5 million of pension fund money was paid to the client account of CJ Deacon, a firm of solicitors whose sole practitioner is Charles Deacon. The payment was advance interest on a $50 million loan from Global Prospect Funding, of whom Charles Deacon was a director, to the Belling company. The loan was never paid and the $3.5 million was never traced.

Clarke defends privatisations' top pay

By Philip Bassett
Industrial Editor

KENNETH CLARKE, the Chancellor, will today defend the salaries of privatised utility leaders in a speech that will support state sell-offs and insist that Labour's mistaken policies would turn Britain into a "basket case".

The Chancellor's promotion of privatisation will include an attack on Labour's proposals on common ownership, for which Tony Blair is expected to gain majority backing at a special conference on Clause Four tomorrow.

Mr Clarke will acknowledge tonight in a speech to be delivered in Nottingham that no-one should approve of an "excessive" pay award that is not based on performance, whether in the boardroom or on the shopfloor. Fresh from his attendance of the spring meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank in Washington, he will also insist that it is "plain business sense" for Britain's world-class companies to employ world-class managers.

Referring specifically to the dispute over top pay in privatised companies, he will tell local business leaders in the Nottingham Chamber of Commerce: "This means inevitably that higher salaries will have to be paid to attract and retain the best people." He will insist that such salaries will be met more easily by a company operating in the private sector than the public sector.

The Chancellor will maintain that boardroom pay has been allowed to dominate the issue for too long and has been used as a Trojan horse by people whose real agenda is to undermine the privatisation programme.

His attack on Labour's common ownership policies will be coupled with sharp criticism of Labour's "failed" *policies on industrial interventionism in the 1960s and 1970s.* Citing the "economically demoralising and disabling culture of complacency" in the old nationalised industries, the Chancellor will underline that privatised companies are contributing £50 million a week to the Exchequer in tax revenue as opposed to costing £60 million a week.

Mr Clarke will claim that privatisation has "breathed new life" into utility companies. He will give details of a number of improvements in performance that have been delivered. These will include British Gas's gas explorations abroad, which Mr Clarke will say have received no attention from the media, unlike Cedric Brown, its chief *executive, whose 75 per cent pay rise sparked off much of the current row over boardroom salaries.*

BG's productivity has risen by 20 per cent, he will point out, while average household gas bills have fallen by the same amount. Electricity prices are down 4 per cent, and BT's prices by over a third in real terms since privatisation, Mr Clarke will note.

Pennington, page 25

Maine - Tucker
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PIA calls on rule-breakers to eat humble pie

By Liz Dolan

MEASURES to force financial service companies who mis-sell products to eat humble pie in public, and to punish individual employees of member firms, were among hardline proposals published by the Personal Investment Authority yesterday.

The PIA discussion document follows the alleged mis-selling of personal pension plans to hundreds of thousands of people that could leave the industry with a £3 billion bill.

The PIA says that the main purpose of the proposals is to "secure a high level of investor protection for the personal investor" by setting standards, monitoring compliance with those standards and taking disciplinary action against transgressors.

The contents of the document indicate just how far the public's savings and investment watchdog is prepared to go to bring about a massive strengthening of displinary measures against firms that transgress industry guidelines.

One of the more radical proposals would require sinners to publish in newspapers, "or, conceivably, other media" details of a reprimand handed out by the disciplinary committee of the PIA.

This would be done at the member's own expense and the wording would be decided by the PIA disciplinary committee.

The PIA considers this to be a more reliable alternative to the current practice of regulators to issue details of any wrongdoings to the press, leaving journalists to decide how much prominence the case deserves.

Employees, or appointed representatives of member firms, could be singled out by the committee if, for instance, they have "knowingly engaged in wrongdoing, permitted wrongdoing to take place, or turned a blind eye to it".

Other proposed punishments include expulsion from, or the imposition of restrictions to, membership and the imposition of fines of at least £300,000.

The PIA also wants powers to force members to right wrongs and take steps to prevent repetition of the same error in the future. "In certain circumstances", investors would be reimbursed by members for any losses arising from their actions. The PIA would also seek repayment of its costs.

The subject of fines appears to have left the authority in something of a dilemma.

As experience by existing regulators shows, fines make a greater impact, both on the public and on the industry, than reprimands, it says. But: "The question arises whether it is fair and reasonable to impose a fine in circumstances where the fine is likely to be paid out of funds which would otherwise be available to investors....

"Put at its starkest, the investors in question may already have suffered losses at the hands of the firm: is it reasonable, in such circumstances, for them to suffer further losses as a result of fines imposed by the regulator?"

The cost of compensating victims of pension plan mis-selling has already sparked opposition from other customers of the companies involved, who fear that they will ultimately be forced to pick up the bill.

The solution would appear to be, "at least at present", to limit the level of fines to those previously handed out by Fimbra or Lautro, out of whose members the present authority has grown. The highest fine imposed by either to date is £300,000.

Vauxhall pours £83m into fight for sales

By Kevin Eason, motoring editor

VAUXHALL threw an extra £83 million into discounts and incentives last year to fend off the sharp dip in car sales.

The company yesterday disclosed pre-tax profits sharply down by £83 million, to £102 million, even though worldwide sales were up by 15 per cent, to 427,000 cars. The write-down of an investment in Cliva Holdings, a vehicle rental subsidiary, reduced the pre-tax figure to £79 million for accounting purposes.

However, the Vauxhall workforce, reduced by more than 600 to just under 10,000 last year, was rewarded for a 6.5 per cent increase in productivity with a profit share of £4 million, just over £400 each. Charles Golden, Vauxhall's chairman, was also rewarded for the efficiency drive — with a £86,549 increase in pay, to £229,376.

Vauxhall said that it had to add incentives worth almost £250 a car in Britain just to ensure a 2.8 per cent rise in sales, to 334,000. Mr Golden would not disclose the company's total spending on discounts, but retailers believe that it may be worth £1,000 on an ordinary family saloon.

The rapid slowdown in the last half of the year, which caught the industry unawares, forced Vauxhall to react.

Mr Golden said: "Our financial expectations were blown off course, primarily by the second-half collapse of the UK market, which resulted in widespread, deep, competitive price discounting. Excess vehicle stocks in the industry, combined with soft demand, led to heavy discounting and a return, almost, to distressed merchandising.

"We had to pay a high price because the overstocked market led to heavy incentives by our competitors. This forced a response from Vauxhall and our profit margins suffered."

Carmakers are now desperately hoping that there is no further rise in interest rates because of the size of the fall in new car sales — down 6 per cent in the second half of 1994 in the retail sector.

Mr Golden said: "This lack of confidence in private buyers has continued into 1995. I think that should raise the red flag to the Chancellor and the Bank of England to use extreme discretion on raising interest rates."

The 6.8 per cent jump in production from Vauxhall's two big plants at Ellesmere Port, on Merseyside, and Luton, Bedfordshire, to 262,000 was pushed by a surge in exports, which offset gloom at home. Overseas sales to 30 countries, ranging from Poland to Japan, doubled to 92,500.

Capacity at Luton, which makes the best-selling Cavalier model, will be increased 25 per cent to 215,000 cars a year by investment worth £136 million. Output of the V6 engine made at Ellesmere Port trebled to 61,000, with nine out of ten sold abroad.

Golden: warning on interest

Stagecoach must stand and deliver

By Martin Barrow

STAGECOACH Holdings, the UK's biggest bus group based in Perth, has been ordered to sell its 20 per cent shareholding in SB Holdings, a rival Glasgow company, and relinquish its seat on the board because the holding was against the public interest.

The Department of Trade and Industry based its findings on the recommendation of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The DTI also seeks an undertaking preventing Stagecoach from any agreement which would bar it from competing with SBH in the region.

The MMC noted that following the merger between SBH and Kelvin Central Buses, SBH emerged with more than two thirds of the market in several districts in and around Glasgow. Surrounding this area were subsidiaries of three substantial operators, each larger than SBH, and the MMC commented that their presence acted as the main safeguard against any attempt by SBH to abuse its dominant position.

STEVE HILL/NEWSTEAM

Cleaning up: Geoff Hollyhead expects more orders as the age of vehicles on the road rises

Bus builder takes more profits on board

By Our City Staff

TRINITY Holdings, the specialist vehicle manufacturer, said that, in spite of a resurgence in demand in the UK market, the average age of vehicles on the road has continued to increase, auguring well for future orders.

Yesterday the company, which principally supplies buses, coaches and refuse vehicles with the Dennis marque, reported a rise in pretax profits to £13.1 million in the year to January 31. This compared with £10.6 million the previous year.

The company secured Britain's largest-ever bus order, to supply 576 vehicles to Badgerline, and won a three-year supply contract with the Ministry of Defence during the year. These orders helped to lift turnover to £163.8 million from £136 million, yielding operating profits of £13.3 million, up from £10.6 million.

Geoff Hollyhead, chairman and chief executive, said growth in output was propelled by a continued recovery in the home market. In spite of an increase in registrations of buses and refuse vehicles, the average age rose, with buses staying on the road for an average 14 years.

The value of exports rose 39 per cent to a record £64.5 million. Trinity believes its newly formed Malaysian joint venture in buses can outgrow its UK operations within three to four years.

Earnings improved to 16.8p a share from 13.8p. There is a final dividend of 4.85p, due July 31, making 7.1p (6.2p).

Saatchi captures Comet account

By Martin Waller

SAATCHI & Saatchi, the advertising agency abandoned by its creative founders and now part of the renamed Cordiant group, has won the £24 million account for the Comet electrical goods chain.

The win, which comes a fortnight after the agency lost the £49 million account of Comet's bigger rival Dixons, brings all the Kingfisher retail trading entities under the Saatchi roof. Kingfisher also owns B&Q, Woolworths and Superdrug, all accounts currently held by Saatchi.

Kingfisher is Britain's fourth biggest advertiser, placing spending worth more than £75 million a year. Comet is among the top ten retail accounts in Britain, as are B&Q and Woolworth.

The loss of the Dixons account to the new agency set up by Maurice Saatchi was seen as a serious blow to Saatchi & Saatchi, which he left amid some acrimony late last year. The Comet win therefore goes some way to making up the shortfall.

A rather more significant play-off between the two is only days from completion. British Airways is this week seeing all four agencies pitching for its own advertising account for the last time before making a decision, and the two are among the contenders. Also pitching are J Walter Thompson and Bartle Bogle Hegarty.

The Comet account had been handled by Abbot Mead Vickers BBDO since 1988. The departure of Dixons has therefore allowed Saatchi & Saatchi to take it on without a conflict of interest. As a result, Kingfisher becomes the largest single British client for Cordiant. Jennifer Laing, brought in as chairman of the agency after the departure of Maurice and Charles Saatchi, said the award was "the best possible endorsement" of Saatchi & Saatchi's experience and ability.

Capital adequacy rules obsolete

By Graham Searjeant, financial editor

THE European capital adequacy directive, which grades the risks of banks dealing in securities and derivatives to make collapses less likely, may be largely obsolete for most bigger banks before its rules come into operation in 1996. Bank of England officials conceded yesterday that many international banks already prefer equivalent rules drawn up by the Basle committee of central bankers from the Group of 10 nations.

Such banks are likely to be allowed to rely on Basle-style "valuation and risk" computer models, to assess the risk they are running compared to their capital, in order to save money and duplication. But they will have to make a full check against the CAD rules twice a year and adopt the highest capital requirement suggested by either system.

The Bank of England issued its instructions to authorised banks yesterday on how to put the directive into effect. They closely follow earlier drafts but include several technical changes to take account of 30 responses to the consultation paper.

The Basle guidelines are themselves likely to be revised by the end of the year after a consultation process. The Bank then hopes that the CAD will eventually be harmonised with the Basle rules.

Both systems of keeping capital in line with risk apply to banks in eight European countries, including the UK, France, Germany, The Netherlands and Luxembourg. The CAD only applies in nine smaller European countries, while the Basle rules but not the CAD apply to banks in North America, Japan and Switzerland. The Securities and Futures Authority is to issue separate rules applying the directive to securities houses that are not regulated by the Bank.

Pennington, page 25

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Regal Hotels Group in £28.8m expansion

REGAL HOTELS GROUP, rescued from financial collapse in 1992, is continuing its expansion under the new management with a £28.8 million clutch of acquisitions, an £18.8 million rights issue and a graduation to a full listing. The business is buying eight hotels from Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries, the regional brewer, and is also acquiring another property in Scotland, on the north bank of the Firth of Forth.

All the purchases are three-star hotels concentrating on business and commercial trade, in line with Regal's expansion programme so far. Charles Vere Nicoll, the chief executive, said the intention was to expand the Wolverhampton & Dudley hotels' occupancy rates, now running at little more than 50 per cent except for one, close to the National Exhibition Centre in the Midlands. The rights issue, at 35p a share on a nine-for-seven basis, is accompanied by a consolidation of the shares and a move to a full listing with a prospective market capitalisation of £36 million.

Eurotunnel shuns credit

EUROTUNNEL, the company that operates the cross-Channel rail link, said yesterday that it will not use a £50 million line of credit offered by Morgan Grenfell and Warburgs, the merchant banks. The company said: "Eurotunnel has decided not to put this facility in place. It would have been costly and did not meet our objective of reducing the cost of borrowing." Eurotunnel has access to £300 million out of the £693 million credit it negotiated at the time of last May's £816 million rights issue.

Business letters, page 27

Procter advances 31%

PROCTER & GAMBLE, the soap group, reported a 31 per cent jump in its January to March profits, with earnings of $631 million, or 88 cents a share. Revenues were $8.31 billion ($7.44 billion). Profits from international businesses rose 23 per cent, while US operations climbed 8 per cent. In January to March 1994, there was a one-off charge of $102 million to cover losses on two interest-rate exchange contracts. The latest results reflect a $50 million charge to cover the costs of rebuilding plants damaged in the Kobe earthquake.

Xerox lifts earnings

XEROX'S core document processing business drove first-quarter earnings and revenues up, the firm said yesterday. January to March earnings were $147 million, or $1.23 a share, compared with $127 million, or $1.05 a share, last year. Revenues were 10 per cent higher at $4.4 billion. The company said its revenues from document processing rose to $3.8 billion, from $3.3 billion a year ago. In Europe, Rank Xerox "achieved double-digit revenue growth and excellent profit growth" in the quarter.

Simon to sell SPT

SIMON ENGINEERING, the troubled access equipment and process engineering company, has signed heads of agreement relating to the proposed sale of of the exploration and geophysical services operations of Simon Petroleum Technology to a management team backed by Montagu Private Equity. The sale of SPT will be the final step in the business divestment and closure programme started by a new management team in 1993. After the acquisition, SPT is expected to revert to the Robertson name.

Home loan expansion

NATIONWIDE HOME LOANS, a subsidiary of Nationwide Building Society, the UK's second-largest building society, has agreed to acquire a £270 million mortgage portfolio from Allied Dunbar Assurance. The mortgage book comprises 4,200 residential loans. The loans will be transferred to Nationwide Home Loans over the next three months. Allied Dunbar stopped writing mortgages in 1992, and has since developed its mortgage strategy in other directions, introducing mortgages to a panel of lenders.

Queens Moat move

THE financial rescue of Queens Moat Houses, the hotels chain that collapsed more than two years ago, jumped a further hurdle yesterday when holders of £215 million debenture stock agreed to the restructuring at a special meeting. The terms of their debentures will be amended to reduce the risk of default in future, and they will continue to receive interest. Shareholders meet at the Barbican Centre today to approve the restructuring. If this vote goes through, the company will apply on May 17 to have its shares relisted after two years.

Dawson disposal

DAWSON International, the troubled textiles group, is to sell Premier Fabrics, its loss-making specialist woven fabrics business, to Yorklyde, the Yorkshire textile company, for £2.65 million in cash. Yorklyde will assume £700,000 of debt. Yorklyde is launching a placing and open offer of 1.1 million new shares at 245p each to raise £2.3 million to fund the acquisition. Yorklyde also reported a 37 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £4.1 million (£3 million) in the year to January 31. A final dividend of 4.85p (3.8p) brings the total to 7.25p (6p).

Christian Salvesen sells

CHRISTIAN SALVESEN, the international distribution and specialist hire company, has sold its interests in the manufacture of equipment for the control of offshore pollution. Vikoma Holdings, Vikoma International, Hoyle Marine International, and Branch Hydraulic Systems have been sold to Southern Vectis and the existing management for an initial £4.4 million. Further profit-related payments of £250,000 a year for the next three are due, depending on earnings, and up to £3 million in the event of a re-sale within three years.

BAYER AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT
PAYMENT OF DIVIDEND

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to shareholders that following a Resolution passed at the Annual General Meeting of shareholders held on 26th April, 1995, a Dividend for the year 1994 of DM. 13.00 per share of DM. 50 nominal will be paid as from 27th April, 1995 against delivery of Coupon No. 54.

All dividends will be subject to deduction of German Capital Yields Tax of 26.875% (25% plus 7.5% "Solidarity Surcharge" on the Capital Yields Tax).

The net amount of dividend is payable in German Marks. Paying Agents outside Germany willl pay in the currency of the country in which the Coupon is presented at the rate of exchange on the day of presentation.

Coupon No. 54 may be presented as from 27th April, 1995 at the Company's Paying Agent in the United Kingdom:-

S.G.Warburg & Co. Ltd.
2 Finsbury Avenue,
London EC2M 2PP

from whom claim forms may be obtained.

United Kingdom Income Tax will be deducted at the rate of 5% (5 pence in the £1) unless claims are accompanied by an affidavit.

German Capital Yields Tax deducted in excess of 15% is recoverable by United Kingdom residents. The Company's United Kingdom Paying Agent will, upon request, provide the appropriate form for such recovery.

Leverkusen
26th April, 1995 BAYER AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT

Singapore makes formal plea on Leeson

By Patricia Tehan, banking correspondent

SINGAPORE plans to try Nick Leeson, the 28-year-old former futures trader in Barings, on 12 charges of forgery and cheating if it obtains his extradition from Germany. Such a charge carries a maximum penalty of seven years in jail.

An official request for the extradition of Mr Leeson was submitted to the German Foreign Ministry by the Singapore Ambassador on Wednesday. The Frankfurt appeals court that will rule on the legality of the request will make a preliminary decision next week.

Hans-Hermann Eckert, the prosecutor, said that he did not expect the preliminary court hearing to reject the validity of the request, which the Singapore authorities said details 12 counts of forgery and cheating against Mr Leeson. Herr Eckert said: "From what I have been told, the extradition request is backed up by witnesses and documents."

The prosecutor said that he believed that the earliest that Mr Leeson could be returned to Singapore was two-and-a-half to three months.

The German authorities expect the court hearings to last until the autumn.

Herr Eckert said that the Singapore authorities had told him that the document, which he received yesterday, contained a statement from Richard Hogan, an American banking executive. Singapore's initial arrest warrant for Mr Leeson claimed that he forged two documents to show that Barings received about $80 million from the Wall Street firm of Spear, Leeds and Kellogg and forged the signature of Mr Hogan, a managing director.

Mr Leeson was alleged to have then used the document as collateral to obtain funds from Citibank in Singapore to continue trading.

A spokesman for ING, the Dutch banking group that bought Barings from the administrators last month, said that the bank would be interested in the court proceedings to the extent of finding out "if and where he might have some money that belongs to Barings". The spokesman said: "If that shows up, we will take action. We are not interested in the person of Mr Leeson."

Barings collapsed after the Singapore trading unit headed by Mr Leeson ran up losses of £860 million.

Nick Leeson faces a plea to extradite him from Germany

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.32	2.15
Austria Sch	16.61	15.11
Belgium Fr	48.66	44.36
Canada $	2.308	2.146
Cyprus Cyp£	0.747	0.692
Denmark Kr	9.32	8.52
Finland Mkk	7.41	6.76
France Fr	8.28	7.63
Germany Dm	2.37	2.16
Greece Dr	379.00	354.00
Hong Kong $	13.12	12.12
Ireland Pt	1.03	0.95
Israel	5.2750	4.5250
Italy Lira	2845.00	2590.00
Japan Yen	149.50	133.50
Malta	0.600	0.545
Netherlds Gld	2.638	2.408
Norway Kr	10.57	9.77
Portugal Esc	245.50	227.00
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.41
Spain Pta	205.50	192.50
Sweden Kr	12.35	11.55
Switzerland Fr	1.97	1.79
Turkey Lira	refer	66260.0
USA $	1.710	1.580

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank plc. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

☐ Market rigging claim fails to convince ☐ Lloyd's solvency abuses ☐ Defending privatisation against the pay critics

Electrical storm

☐ THERE is something distinctly awry, on first sight at least, about the idea that prices of electrical goods on the high street are being kept artificially high by some unholy alliance of established retailers and big manufacturers.

The established chains are *not* doing particularly well out of this alleged Faustian pact. This sector of retail is consolidating rapidly, but only as competitors stumble out of the race. Rumbelows has given up the ghost, as have an increasing number of the regional electricity companies. The survivors are in barely better health. Comet is in the red while Dixons makes barely acceptable margins and may be heading for more grief once the effects of the squeeze on extended warranties are felt.

The Office of Fair Trading *suspects that* "well over 25 per cent" of the electrical goods market is governed by unfair and *anti-competitive practices.* But this takes some believing. In any market, but most particularly in a viciously competitive area like electrical goods, a supplier that controls only a quarter of the market and keeps his prices high becomes, probably around next Thursday week, a bankrupt supplier. A big manufacturer like Sony, for example, has enormous reach all over the globe, but if its products are *deliberately* overpriced they will not sell. *The brand name has clout, but so does the price label.*

The rapid price reductions for electrical consumer goods such as camcorders and computers, running at as much as 20 per cent a year, also suggest the supposed cartel may not be operating too effectively.

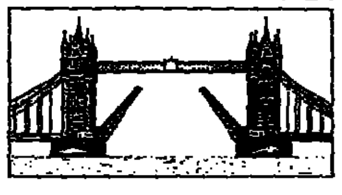
The assertion from the Consumers Association, which reports on the matter next week, that the similarity of prices up and down the high street proves price-fixing looks extraordinarily naive. The prices are the same because each chain employs large numbers of people to ensure this, and the retailer that goes out of line too far either way goes out of business.

The complainants, who say *they have been frustrated in attempts to break into the British market and offer much cheaper* goods, can plead with *some justification that prices in Britain are rather higher than in the US,* although anecdotal evidence at *least suggests they are lower* than *on* the Continent. *They say* they have been refused access to the goods by the manufacturers, who are keen to support the *established chains. But the Monopolies Commission will have to prove that the manufacturers have* systematically sat together in the same smoke-filled room to ensure none breaks ranks. Simply attempting to protect your brands by refusing to supply them to discounters is not illegal, a point made explicit when the perfume-makers did just that. The competition authorities have had mixed results recently in examining prices of CDs, videos and extended warranties. The odds must be that the latest inquiry will fail to make much headway.

Cash is still king

☐ *CHATSET is right to brush aside the debate over Lloyd's solvency position as irrelevant. Solvency is* all *about assets* and liabilities and as a result can be fudged. The arcane art of accountancy offers *numerous avenues* for the adept to provide the figures desired. An end result is chosen and the numbers

PENNINGTON



crunched to provide it. Cash is different. It cannot be created or wrung out of recalcitrant names by creative accounting.

With a further loss of £1.47 billion expected next month, names will have been hit by losses of nearly £9 billion in the past five years. *To date, names have been sent demands for only part of the loss, but the bottom of cash boxes and cufflink cases are already being exposed.*

Last year *names were asked to stump up* £1.7 billion. About 40 per cent is said to be still *unpaid.* The chances of collecting the outstanding £680 million and the £1.5 billion bill expected to land on *names'* doormats later this year are questionable. New intiatives have been taken, such as putting the onus on Lloyd's agents to collect the debts — *under the threat of losing their right to continue operating.* But whether this will work — and fast enough — *remains* to be seen. Many believe the shortfall will force Lloyd's to levy names for about £600 million, a move that will upset names still underwriting. The levy will eat into profits — the first for many years — that are finally on the horizon.

Burying the golden goose

☐ KENNETH CLARKE is right *to be frustrated.* Opponents of privatisation have used directors' pay *so skillfully to attack it that they have undermined Britain's greatest industrial success story of the past* 15 years. The Opposition has, however, conceded the *principle.* Ire has focused on utilities, where competition is either absent, or can be ignored. By a sleight of hand, high dividends and executive pay can therefore be dressed up as exploitation of consumers, even when regulation and efficiency have cut prices and improved service.

The truly damaging critics of *privatisation are, however, in the* Conservative Party. Tory backbenchers kiboshed a sale of the Royal Mail, because they did not trust the regulated private sector to keep rural post offices and the universal letter post.

These doubts stem from what has happened to British Gas, in particular, but also, for instance, to BT and the coal industry. The ideological drive to inject competition has undermined some benefits of a privatised monopoly. Britain *has* missed out on a *national* information superhighway and gas customers find *themselves on the wrong end of something akin to a corporate nervous breakdown. Private monopolies,* as *in water, are not ideal, but perform better than state-owned ones.* Yet *ministers* have rarely defended the regulated *private monopoly.*

Growth of a separate and ambitious regulation industry was *not* envisaged either. But regulators, keen to promote the competition priority, have followed the logic of unwinding cross-subsidies as a *sine qua non* for allowing open competition.

These forces, which have nothing to do with the principle of privatisation, turned Tory MPs against selling the Post Office. They also swell public doubts over the break-up of British Rail, logical though the new matrix may seem. *The* Government's *instant conversion to privatisation of nuclear power appears to stem solely from withdrawal of the Post Office and the downgrading of Railtrack; from Treasury cash-raising priorities that* might have been justified in the early 1980s but are not now.

If opponents manage to blacken privatisation, ministers such as Mr Clarke are largely to blame. But that is an historic judgment. This phase has almost run its course. A new industrial vision is now needed.

Banking by numbers

☐ BANKS *should not confuse* Europe's Capital Adequacy Directive *with computer-aided design.* Official risk weightings might allow them to *programme* the most profitable portfolio. But averages tell little and some reckon the CAD weights inferior to Basle rules that will inevitably hold sway among non-European international banks. Smaller banks should never rely on regulators as a proxy for nous.

Shares suffer as profits plummet

Catalogue of woes takes toll at Betterware

By Sarah Bagnall

PROFITS slumped at Betterware, the door-to-door catalogue sales group, last year, hit by harsh trading conditions and charges against restructuring.

The former darling of the stock market announced that pre-tax profits had sunk from £14.1 million to £1 million in the year to February 25. The worse than expected decline was partly due to £5.1 million of exceptional charges for asset writedowns and a cost reduction programme.

The company, which has issued three profit warnings in the past 12 months, saw its shares slide 3½p to 43p, close to its low for the year of 38½p.

In the summer of 1993 its shares stood at a 278p — 10p above the price they commanded when Betterware joined the Unlisted Securities Market in October 1986. The fall in the share price has cut the company's stock market valuation from £286 million in 1993 to about £45 million now.

Profits from the group's main direct selling businesses more than halved from £14.1 million to £6.8 million while the non-core activities made a trading loss of £700,000. Group turnover slipped from £63.2 million to £58.3 million.

Andrew Cohen, who stepped up from chief executive to executive chairman at the end of 1994, said the year had been "challenging", mainly because of "lower sales volumes in the UK, caused by the fall in the size of the sales force". Betterware suffered problems when it moved to a new £10 million distribution centre at the end of 1993. This caused its sales force to shrink by 1,000, or 10 per cent, and in turn UK direct home selling sales fell from £49.7 million to £45 million. Mr Cohen said remedial action had been taken and the board was confident that sales growth could be restored.

A brighter picture emerged from continental Europe, where turnover rose from £2.9 million to £4.3 million, helped by a 41 per cent leap in sales by the French business and a tripling of sales in Spain. Of the restructuring charge, £1.65 million is to cover the costs of centralising all product distribution in Europe at Reims.

The final dividend was cut from 1.95p to 1.75p, which, after a rise in the interim dividend, leaves the total for the year unchanged at 2.6p. The cut was in line with expectations after the group announced at half time that it was going to shift the balance between the interim and final payments.

The final dividend, due on July 24, is being paid out of pre-exceptional earnings of 3.5p a share, compared with 9.4p last time.

Cohen: challenging year

Tempus, page 26

ALAN WELLER

Chris Thomson, finance director, left, Colin Evans and Barry Reed, chairman, at their shop in Knightsbridge

Austin Reed collars a 48% advance

By Susan Gilchrist

THE long-awaited recovery in the menswear market helped Austin Reed Group, the upmarket clothing group, lift underlying profits by 48 per cent last year.

The group, which has 47 stores, made pre-tax profits of £7.3 million *in the year to January 31, up from £6.9 million.* Excluding *exceptional* income from rates rebates and disposals *underlying profits rose to £6.0 million from £4.1 million.*

Colin Evans, chief executive, said it had been a good year for menswear, particularly in casual clothing, with a *strong pick-up in demand.* However, consumers remained value-conscious and price increases were hard to come by.

Group turnover rose 9 per cent with like-for-like sales up 8 per cent. The performance of Austin Reed's four airport shops was particularly strong. Another outlet is to open at Heathrow this year, along with four other stores.

In common with other retailers, current trading is less strong. Mr Evans said consumers had become *jittery* as tax rises filtered through. A final dividend of 4.0p (3.5p) brings the total to 6.0p (5.5p). Shareholders will be paid on July 3.

Shares in Lord King company fall again

By Martin Waller

FULL-YEAR figures from Aerostructures Hamble, the aircraft components business chaired by Lord King that was one of the most conspicuous disasters of the new issues market in 1994, have prompted another share price plunge.

The shares ended 3p lower at 30p after slumping well below that level when the figures were first issued. They were sold to the City and the public at 120p last June.

Profits before tax in 1994 fell to £1.52 million, from £4.51 million, and after tax and various dividends on non-equity shares that had to be paid, earnings per share virtually disappeared at 0.33p, against a comparable 12.42p.

The pre-tax figure includes a £430,000 provision for reorganisation. In 1993, a £2 million charge was taken. Gross profits, therefore, fell from £9.16 million to £3.53 million in 1994. Lord King, the former British Airways chairman, *told shareholders it had been decided it would not be appropriate to pay a final dividend for 1994. "Although many of the operational difficulties we encountered in the latter part of last year have been resolved, the problems they created will have an adverse impact on the results for the first half of 1995,"* he said.

Aerostructures shocked the stock market, and those investors who bought into the issue, with two profit warnings late last year that prompted a collapse in the share price. The problems revolved around contracts to provide parts for the Harrier and Hawk military craft built by British Aerospace, the company's one-time owner.

The company warned shareholders then of a decline in the 1995 order book that appeared in the second half of last year. Lord King said the situation had not deteriorated further, and taking this and the current environment in the aerospace business into account, turnover in the current year would be "marginally less" than the £62.2 million achieved in 1994.

Christopher West, who arrived in January as chief executive from Westland Helicopters, said the intention was to restore the group to full profitability in the "near future".

Tempus, page 26

Abbey has wooed N&P nine years

By Patricia Tehan, Banking Correspondent

ABBEY NATIONAL made its first approach to National & Provincial Building Society nine years ago and its second immediately after it converted from building society to bank in 1989. Its current approach to N&P is actually its fourth attempt to merge with the society.

In 1986 Sir Campbell Adamson, the Abbey chairman, approached Alan Kerry, N&P chairman, but the talks led nowhere. Then, in 1989, Peter Birch, chief executive of Abbey National, contacted Ben Thompson-McCausland, then chief executive of N&P, who, he said, saw that there might be benefits. At that time, N&P was itself considering conversion to bank status.

Mr Birch said that in spite of Abbey's attempts to discuss the strategic fit of the two organisations, three sets of N&P management have been too busy to talk. He said: "I do not know what I can do other than write to them every other month."

It might be that N&P members would not want anything to do with Abbey, he said, adding: "That is fine, but it could be that their members would like to have discussions."

In 1993 Abbey *made* a well-publicised *approach to* David O'Brien, *who replaced* Mr Thompson-McCausland. However, the price discussed is understood to have been at net asset value. This time, Abbey is believed to be talking of a price of about £1.1 billion, which is one and a half times net assets.

After Mr O'Brien's departure, Abbey contacted Alastair Lyons, his replacement. Mr Birch said that the bank has been trying to arrange meetings with him *since* January. They are to *meet* on *Monday.*

Abbey was *accused* of *making a hostile* approach to N&P *when it* issued a stock market announcement on Monday saying that it believed a merger of the two would make sound strategic sense.

☐ Christopher James, chairman of Birmingham Midshires Building Society yesterday told its annual meeting that it was committed to staying mutually owned.

Ships AT WAR 1939 1945

Warspite's Last Battles

Prison Ship *Altmark*

The Black Raider

– leading articles in the May issue of

Ships monthly

On sale now at principal newsagents

Fashion may pay dividend

By Our City Staff

SHAREHOLDERS in French Connection may receive their first dividend in four years after the fashion group's unveiling of sharply increased profits.

David Bernstein, chairman, said that the group was firmly on the road to recovery and he intended to consider payment of a final dividend for the current year.

Although profits jumped by 35 per cent last year, Mr Bernstein said that it was still too early for the company to return to the dividend list. "We want another year of good results under our belt before we get back on the *dividend trail,*" *he said.* "When we get back, we want it to be sustainable."

The group, which owns the French Connection and Nicole Farhi brands, made pre-tax profits of £6.9 million in the year to January 31, up from £5.1 million in the previous period. Mr Bernstein said that gross margins had improved strongly, particularly in the US.

Total sales rose by 10 per cent. In the UK, sales growth was driven by store openings, with like-for-like sales little changed. Like-for-like sales rose by 15 per cent in the US.

The group plans to open its largest French Connection store in *Covent Garden,* London, this year.

Bernstein: margins better

Weak sales trim shares in Etam

By Our City Staff

SHARES in Etam, the women's fashion retailer, fell 12p to 197p yesterday as the group reported a 24 per cent fall in profits and gave warning of continued weak trading.

The City was braced for the sharp reduction after last February's profits warning. However, analysts were disappointed to see that the poor performance had spilled over into the current year. The group made pre-tax profits of £10.7 million *for the year to* January 28, *down from £14 million. Earnings fell to* 10.90p, *from* 13.57p, a share.

Keith Miles, finance director, said that the reduction in profits reflected a 1 per cent fall in sales caused by an unseasonably warm autumn, disruption during store refurbishments and poorly targeted products.

Mr Miles said that the weak sales trend had continued into the first two months of the current year, *although April had been more encouraging. The final dividend is held at* 5.75p, *for a total of 7.7p (7.5p), to be paid on July 7.*

Tempus, page 26

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Uncertain Wall Street brings London reverse

THE London stock market showed signs of running out of steam, partly reflecting an early downturn on Wall Street which saw the Dow Jones idustrial average dip below the 4,300 level.

Share prices in London have shown remarkable resilience this week, in spite of mounting pressure for another rise in interest rates. Yesterday, prices attempted to extend the rise, with the FT-SE 100 index scoring an early lead of more than 15 points. But the lack of *commitment by investors and* the opening fall on Wall Street *saw London nursing a fall of* 8.6 at 3,217.6 at the close. Turnover of 644 million was flattering, boosted by a sizeable program trade, believed to have been carried out by NatWest Securities.

British Steel shares firmed on heavy turnover

Among leaders, there was further heavy turnover in shares of **British Steel**, with the price firming 2p to 165½p as almost 43 million shares changed hands. Brokers say the group has been *basking in* the reflected glory of some *impressive trading news this* week from Bethlehem Steel *and Algoma in the US.*

Ladbroke rose 4p to 178p on the back of a buy recommendation from James Capel, the broker.

Unigate eased 2p to 378p on the back of claims that Nutricia, the Dutch food group in which it has a large stake, faces the threat of prosecution by the Dutch authorities. *There has been in*tense speculation this year *that Unigate has been looking* to sell its stake in Nutricia.

Shares of **Amstrad**, *the con*sumer electronics group, stood *out with a rise of 5½p to 195½p* amid suggestions that it is *about to sign* a £50 million deal with **Vodafone**, the mobile phone operator. Talk in the market place claims that Amstrad's Dutch mobile phone subsidiary is ready to manufacturer cut-price telephones for Vodafone, 1p firmer at 192½p.

ICI enjoyed an early markup after news of better than expected first-quarter figures, touching 784p before ending the day 2p lower at 756p. Pretax profits were more than doubled at £221 million, compared with £93 million for the corresponding period.

Brokers, such as Credit Lyonnais Laing, Robert Fleming and BZW, urged clients to sell ICI shares into any strength, while Smith New Court increased its estimate for the full year to £850 million.

News that the Office of Fair Trading had ordered the *Monopolies and Mergers Com*mission to launch an inquiry into the supply of domestic electrical goods to retailers sent a *shudder* through the big electrical retailers. Sir Bryan Carsberg at the OFT said there were indications that *manufacturers accounting for* 25 per cent of the supply of *such goods had engaged in* practices designed to sustain *prices. Word is that manufac*turers are refusing to supply goods *to retailers* which sell goods below manufacturers' recommended retail prices. There were losses for **Dixons**, down 8p at 239½p, and **Kingfisher**, which owns the Comet retail chain, off 4p at 448p.

A worse than expected *drop* in full year pre-tax profits left **Betterware**, *the door-to-door* retailer, 3½p lower at 43p. Pre*tax profits* were almost wiped out, plunging from £14.1 million to £1 million on sales 8 per cent lower at £58.3 million. The *profits* were struck after exceptional charges of £5.1 million. A decline in profits also left **Etam**, the womens*wear retailer, 12p down at* 197p. Full-year figures showed *pre-tax profits down* 24 per cent at £10.7 million, with the *group forecasting* that first half profits in the current year will also be down on the corresponding period, unless sales strengthened. In November, Etam issued a profits warning, forecasting operating profits of between £11 *million and £12 million.* Analysts, who had been looking *for pre-tax profits of up to £18* million, immediately slashed their forecasts.

Austin Reed also dropped *14p to 211p after a sombre* message on current trading *prospects. The chairman* warned that the retail trade *had been tougher this season.*

The warning of a slowdown *from both these companies* was not lost on the rest of the *sector,* with losses recorded in **Great Universal Stores**, 4p to 596p, **Boots**, 3p to 514p, **Fine Art Developments**, 4p to 369p, and **WH Smith**, 4p to 409p.

There is still little for shareholders of **Aerostructures Hamble** to cheer. The group floated in June last year and has since made several profit warnings. *Yesterday it* announced a drop in pre-tax *profits from £4.5 million to* £1.5 million. The group also gave warning *that* the outcome for the current year was likely to be lower than 1994. The shares fell 3p to 30p.

Berkeley Business Group, headed by former Securiguard chairman Alan Baldwin, held steady at 53p after reporting reduced pre-tax losses of £1.2 million, compared with £4.5 million. The figure was struck after a restructuring charge of £500,000. The group is to make a charge of £450,000 in the current year relating to its recent abortive bid for *Southern Business Group. The company intends to pursue further acquisitions.*

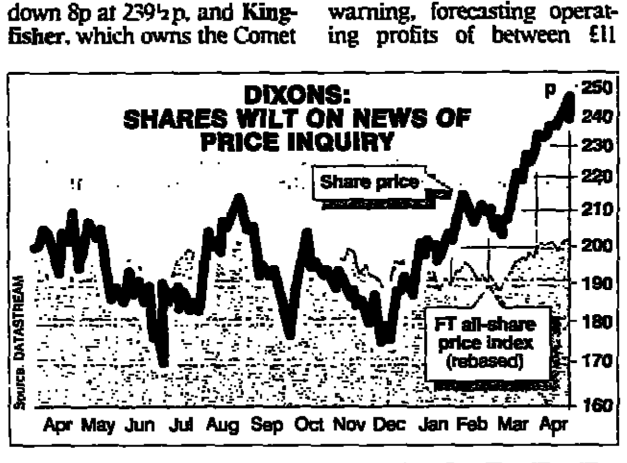
Shares of **Louis Newmark** *were suspended at 31p, down* 7p, pending clarification of the company's financial position.

☐ **GILT EDGED:** Gilts suffered falls on the back of a weaker German bund, with no sign of the squeeze which drove prices higher earlier in the week. Investors appeared unwilling to open fresh positions before today's Purchasing Managers Data in the US.

In futures, the June long gilt finished £$^{9}/_{32}$ lower at £$103^{25}/_{32}$ as 40,000 contracts were completed. Among conventional issues Treasury 8 per cent 2013 eased nine ticks to £$96^{31}/_{32}$, while Treasury 8 per cent 2000 lost £$^{1}/_{32}$ to £$98^{29}/_{32}$.

☐ **NEW YORK:** US shares were slighlty lower, pressured by a weak bond market. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 0.69 points at 4,299.14.

Fresh talk of a Fisons bid was fuelled in early trading by a line of stock being picked up at a premium to the market price. A line of 1.15 million shares went through at 187p. Fisons closed 1p easier at 184p. There has been speculation that Zeneca is ready to pounce and block any merger between Fisons and Medeva.



DIXONS: SHARES WILT ON NEWS OF PRICE INQUIRY

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	4299.14 (-0.69)
S&P Composite	512.45 (-0.21)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	16883.99 (+57.50)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	8312.29 (+26.60)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	415.54 (+1.75)
Sydney:	
AO	2032.4 (+23.1)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2026.08 (-3.45)
Singapore:	
Straits	2056.00 (-7.63)
Brussels:	
General	7377.54 (+45.74)
Paris:	
CAC-40	1930.96 (-11.36)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	594.60 (+0.10)
London:	
FT 30	2442.0 (-7.7)
FT 100	3217.6 (-8.6)
FT-SE Mid 250	3526.2 (+8.6)
FT-SE-A 350	1598.4 (-2.4)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1307.41 (+3.09)
FT A All-Share	1578.40 (-1.99)
FT Non Financials	1704.67 (-2.71)
FT Fixed Interest	111.27 (+0.10)
FT Govt Secs	91.98 (-0.18)
Bargains	23326
SEAQ Volume	742.2m
USM (Datastrm)	150.18 (+0.27)
US$	1.6180 (+0.0072)
German Mark	2.2207 (-0.0046)
Exchange Index	84.7 (Same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.1995
£:SDR	1.0201
RPI	147.5 Mar (3.5%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Biocomp Intl (170)	171	...
Brit Aero Cap Uts p/p	725	+2
Coral Products (60)	63	...
Dailywin (128)	129	...
Datrontech (130)	168	+12
Dumyat Div	103	...
Dumyat Monthly Div	103	...
Edinburgh Japan Tst C	101	...
For & Col Spec Uts (100)	100	...
General Cable (190)	183	...
Ivory & Sime Disc Uts	480	...
Natl Power (p/p) (476)	182	...
PTS Group (90)	96	...
PowerGen (p/p) (512)	195	...
Precoat Intl (125)	127	-1
Rainford (270)	302	+1
Schroder Inc Gth Fund	103	...
Schroder Inc Gth Wts	28	-2
Scot Orient Smlr (100)	100	+1½
Vision Group (97)	140	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Bolton Group n/p (23)	½	...
Inspec Group n/p (175)	60	+2
Roskel n/p (92)	11	-1

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Wolverhampton D	517p (+13p)
Filofax	246p (+10p)
Courtaulds	450p (+7p)
Croda	344p (+9p)
Danka Bs Sys	405p (+17p)
Eurotherm	431p (+8p)
Paon	311p (+13p)
Reckitt Colman	634p (+12p)
More O'Ferrall	373p (+12p)
Ulster TV	775p (+27p)
Yorkshire TV	505p (+18p)
Abbott Mead	387p (+15p)
Sterling Pub	30p (+5p)
Scot TV	461p (+8p)
FALLS:	
Abbey National	463p (-9p)
Inchcape	325p (-9p)
Granada	589p (-7p)
Thorn EMI	1109p (-8p)

Closing Prices Page 29

TEMPUS

Chemical enhancement

THE world is finally able to see and appreciate the fruits of ICI's radical self-help programme of the past five years. A reasonable improvement in demand for industrial chemicals has had a dramatic impact on the group's profitability and the first-quarter figures were a fitting tribute, on his retirement, to the efforts of Sir Denys Henderson.

The 240 per cent rise in profits in the industrial chemical division to £143 million shows how low the group has driven its costs and how tightly the lid is sealed on them. It is hardly as if the market is enjoying an unsustainable boom; prices are still 25 per cent lower than they were at the peak of the last cycle.

Naturally, the speed of profit growth will slow. Economic growth in Britain and the US has slackened and prices in many chemicals have now stabilised. There is also the worry that ICI's many cutbacks have left it short of the capacity to service its markets. But many of its plants are still not operating at full tilt, new ones are coming on stream for products such as Klea and the group is busy expanding others, leaving *further* scope for volume growth.

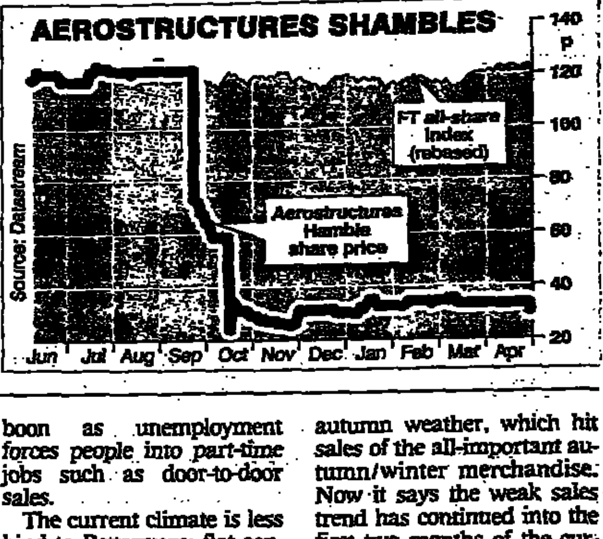
Besides, *ICI's recovery* has so far largely been confined to one division. The downstream businesses, such as *paints*, are still merely ticking over. When there is a real improvement in consumer markets, *paints* is also capable of delivering double-digit margins, instead of the present 3 per cent. *Even on* conservative forecasts the group's shares have fallen back to a prospective earnings *multiple in the low* teens. That appears cheap given that the peak of the cycle still seems some way *off*.

Aerostructures Hamble

READERS might care to be warned that there are some rather pushy private client brokers who are peddling Aerostructures Hamble as the next recovery stock. That is why the shares were pushed north of *30p before* reality, in the shape of full-*year figures, intervened to* bring them down to earth.

Problems that grounded the new issue last autumn have not gone away, and statement of prospects for the first half is distinctly chilly. The conclusion must be that there is not much chance of a profit in the current year, there is not going to be more than a nominal dividend, and any legal action from shareholders against advisors to the float will depress sentiment further.

There are two ways of valuing shares like Aerostructures' that have neither a yield nor an earnings multiple on which to rely. One is the net asset value, currently about twice the share price. *This presumes* those assets are worth anything should *they need to* be sold, which is not always the case in engineering companies. There is also the view that if *all works out* as it should, the group will one day make a *respectable mar*gin on sales that will contin*ue at their current* level. The group is shipping to other *customers*, which should lessen its unhealthy reliance *on BAe*, but the flight path ahead for the shares remains set at a low altitude.



AEROSTRUCTURES SHAMBLES

Betterware

A DIRECT selling business is all about sales and Betterware was able to offer little reassurance that last year's 9 per cent slide in turnover would be reversed in the current year. Heavy investment in the new distribution warehouse and new catalogue caused overheads to soar last year. At the same time, Betterware saw its sales force diminish after hiccups in the distribution chain.

The company reckons it has cut £1 million from overheads and the salesforce has returned to levels above 10,000, but a slight increase in trading above last year's figures will not be enough to restore profits to the dizzy £14 million level.

Betterware needs an eager salesforce: it does well in boom times when the general consumer frenzy causes otherwise normal people to knock on their neighbours doors brandishing catalogues. *Recession is also a* boon as unemployment *forces people* into *part-time* jobs such as door-to-door sales.

The current climate is less kind to Betterware: flat consumer demand, low interest rates and falling unemployment are conspiring against Betterware's attempts to get its catalogues into more of the nation's homes. Overseas, prospects appear brighter and Betterware's link-up with Avon has yet to prove its worth. But on its home turf, the group is looking suspiciously like a company searching to recapture its market and the prevailing "feel-grim" mood is doing nothing to help Betterware open new doors.

Etam

THE market does not like unpleasant surprises and Etam has delivered two in as many months. In February it sounded a warning that profits would be below last year's *levels* because of the warm autumn weather, which hit sales of the all-important autumn/winter merchandise. Now it says the weak sales trend has continued into the first two months of the current year, adding somewhat ominously that unless sales strengthen further, profits for the first half will be below last year. That is hardly what the market, already in need of reassurance, wants to hear.

Etam remains confident it can get back on track but there is no evidence of any decisive turnround yet. It is not helped by the group's stubborn reluctance to reveal what sales uplifts have been achieved in its newly refurbished stores. Given that shareholders are seeing £16.5 million of their money spent on the refurbishment programme, that seems unfair.

Until clearer evidence of recovery emerges, the shares are unlikely to make significant progress.

EDITED BY NEIL BENNETT

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

May	954-953	Jul	1074-1072
Jul	985-984	Sep	1085-1083
Sep	1005-1003	Dec	1103-1100
Dec	1031-1030	Mar	1119-1115
Mar	1053-1051		
May	1064-1062		Volume: 10949

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

May	3130-3127	Jan	3090-3075
Jul	3149-3148	Mar	3075-3055
Sep	3116-3115	May	3060-3040
Nov	3096-3095		Volume: 4944

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Mar	298.0-97.0
Spot: 356.0		May	298.1-96.5
Aug	335.5-34.7	Aug	298.6-96.5
Oct	305.2-03.2	Oct	285.0-83.0
Dec	298.9-97.0		Volume: 1558

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on April 26

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	90.92	122.57	121.36
(+/-)	+0.43	-12.22	-1.76
Eng/Wales:	90.92	123.36	120.96
(+/-)	+0.43	-12.32	-1.32
(%)	+12.0	-9.0	-9.0
Scotland:	unq	115.14	123.29
(+/-)	-	-14.84	-4.10
(%)		-47.0	-3.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	19.15	+0.30
Brent 15 day (Jun)	18.95	+0.30
Brent 15 day (Jul)	18.40	+0.20
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	20.35	+0.25
W Texas Intermediate (Jul)	20.00	+0.20

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 199 (+1)	O: 201 (+1)
Gasoil EEC	162 (n/c)	163 (-1)
Non EEC 1H May	160 (-2)	161 (-2)
Non EEC 1H Jun	158 (-1)	160 (-1)
3.5 Fuel Oil	106 (+5)	108 (+5)
Naphtha	172 (+1)	174 (+1)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

May	158.25-58.50	Aug	157.50-57.75
Jun	157.00-57.25	Sep	159.25-59.50
Jul	156.50-56.75		Vol: 19548

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jun	18.94-18.95	Sep	17.78 BID
Jul	18.40-18.41	Oct	17.63-17.67
Aug	18.04-18.05		Vol: 40783

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
May	119.35	May	112.30
Jul	120.40	Sep	103.65
Sep	104.75	Nov	104.85
Nov	105.60	Jan	106.85
Jan	107.65	Mar	108.75
Volume: 373		Volume: 22	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
May	310.0	307.3
Apr	120.0	123.5
May	unq	140.0
		Volume: 46

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Jun 116.00-116.50

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
May 95	2365	2340	2359
Jun 95	2265	2240	2245
Jul 95	2080	2050	2060
Oct 95	2000	1990	1990
Vol: 383 lots		Open Interest: 4686	

Index 2333 +13

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE (Official) (Volume prev day) Rudolf Wolff

	Cash:	3mth:	Vol:
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2795.0-2796.0	2756.0-2757.0	290150
Lead ($/tonne)	613.50-614.00	625.00-625.50	136825
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1079.0-1080.0	1099.0-1099.5	714475
Tin ($/tonne)	5935.0-5940.0	5945.0-5950.0	18980
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1808.5-1809.0	1792.5-1793.5	1884550
Nickel ($/tonne)	7251.0-7255.0	7380.0-7385.0	69618

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series		Calls Jul	Oct	Jan	Puts Jul	Oct	Jan
Alld Dom.	500	52	54½	61	6	9½	16
(*547½)	550	15½	24	32½	27½	31	38
Argyll	280	15	20	25	11½	15½	19
(*285½)	300	5½	11½	16½	25	28	31
ASDA	80	5	6½	9	4	5	7
(*80)	90	1½	3	4	10½	11½	12½
Boots	500	24½	35	39½	15	19	22
(*514)	550	4½	14	18	48½	50½	52½
Br Airways	390	22½	30	38	15½	20	24
(*399)	420	8½	17	24½	34	37½	41
BP	420	33½	42	48½	5	10	12½
(*447½)	460	10½	19½	27	23	28	30½
Br Steel	160	11	14	17½	5	8	10
(*165½)	180	3	6	8½	18	20	21½
C & W	390	27½	37½	44	11½	16	20
(*406)	420	13	23	29½	27½	31½	35
CU	550	29½	40	50½	18½	29	33½
(*559)	600	10	19	29½	49½	59½	63
ICI	750	33	46	61½	21	33	39
(*755)	800	12	24	38½	51	62	67½
Kingfishr	420	40	49½	58	7	14	18
(*448½)	460	16½	26½	36	21	31½	36
Land Sec	550	22½	29	34	10	23	26
(*561½)	600	3½	10	14½	57½	59	59½
M & S	390	31	38	44	5	10½	12
(*416)	420	11	20½	27	18	23½	25
Nat West	500	53½	61	70½	6	13½	16½
(*540½)	550	20½	32	41½	24	34½	38
Sainsbury	420	23	32	39½	10	13½	18
(*436)	460	5	13½	20½	34½	36½	40
Shell	700	54	65½	72	5½	12	15½
(*739½)	750	18½	33½	42½	22	32	36
Smkl Bch	460	45	53	61½	5½	11½	15½
(*497)	500	19	29	38½	19½	27½	32
Storehse	240	13½	19½	23½	9	11	13
(*245)	260	4½	10½	14½	21	22½	24
Trafalgar	50	9	11	12½	1	2½	4
(*57)	60	3½	5½	7½	5½	7	8½
Unilever	1200	57½	86½	102½	19	29	35
(*1223½)	1250	29	57½	74	42½	51½	57
Zeneca	900	43	57	76	27	39½	49
(*902)	950	21	34½	53	56	67½	76½
Series		May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Grnd Met.	390	14½	24	32½	3	12	16
(*400½)	420	1½	10	18	20½	29	32
Ladbroke	160	18½	23½	26	0	2½	4½
(*178)	180	3½	10	14	5	10	13
Utd Bisc	330	17½	29½	36½	1½	8½	14
(*344½)	360	2½	14	21½	16½	22½	28½

Series		Calls Jul	Oct	Jan	Puts Jul	Oct	Jan
BAA	460	21	30½	37	14½	19½	22½
(*465½)	500	6	13½	19½	40½	43½	46
Thames W	460	34	38	42	11½	17	22½
(*486)	500	10	17½	22½	35½	39	44
Series		May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
BAT Ind	460	17½	32½	38½	5½	19½	24
(*471½)	500	2	13½	20	29½	42	46
BTR	300	29½	37	40½	0	3	7
(*328½)	330	5½	17	22	7	13	19
Br Aero	483	58	—	—	0½	—	—
(*539)	531	18	—	—	10	—	—
Br Telcm	390	10½	19½	24½	4½	15½	19½
(*394½)	420	1	6½	11½	29½	36	38½
Cadbury	409	31	43	—	0	5	—
(*437½)	447	4	19	—	11½	19½	—
Guinness	460	17	31½	39	4	12½	16½
(*472)	500	1½	12½	19½	28½	34	38
GEC	300	8	15	18	3½	13	15½
(*303)	330	0½	3½	7	27	34½	36
Hanson	220	17½	20½	23	0	3½	6
(*236½)	240	3	8½	12	6	11½	15
LASMO	160	8	14	18½	2	6	7½
(*169)	180	1	5	9½	15	17½	19
Lucas	180	13½	20½	24½	1	5	8½
(*192)	200	2	9½	14	9½	14½	19
Pilkingtn	160	20	22	26	0	2	3½
(*179½)	180	3½	9	13½	4	9½	11½
Prudential	300	17	27½	32	1½	5½	10½
(*315)	330	1½	11½	16½	16½	20	25
Redland	420	8	22	29	13½	21½	27½
(*425½)	460	0	9	14½	48	50	54
R-Royce	160	14	20	22½	0½	4	6½
(*172½)	180	2½	9½	12	9	13	16
Tesco	260	17	24½	29	1	4½	7½
(*275½)	280	4½	12½	17	7½	12½	15½
Vodafone	180	13½	19½	25	1	5½	8
(*191½)	200	3	9½	15	10	15½	18
Williams	330	11	21	24½	4½	10	15½
(*334½)	360	1	8	11½	25½	28	33

FT-SE INDEX (*3216½)

	3100	3150	3200	3250	3300	3350
Calls						
May	124	83	47	22	8½	3
Jun	140½	104½	74½	48½	29½	16½
Jul	166	130½	101	75½	53½	38
Aug	183	150	120½	94½	72	53½
Dec	249	—	167½	—	139½	—
Puts						
May	6½	14½	30½	57	94½	141
Jun	21	34½	54½	79½	111½	150
Jul	37	51½	71	96½	125	161
Aug	48	65	85	110	139	171
Dec	87	—	125½	—	177½	—

Series		Calls Jun	Sep	Dec	Puts Jun	Sep	Dec
Abby Nat.	460	18	27	36	11	19½	23
(*462)	500	4	11½	18½	38	44	47
Amstrad	175	23½	—	—	1	—	—
(*195½)	200	6	14½	19	10	13	16
Barclays	600	53	65	77	4	14	19½
(*643)	650	19½	34	48	21	34	40½
Blue Circ	280	15½	24½	30	7	13	17
(*286)	300	6½	14½	20½	18	23	27
Br Gas	280	19	22½	26½	3½	7	11½
(*298½)	300	5	11½	16	13½	17	21½
Dixons	220	23	26	29½	2½	7½	9
(*239)	240	10	13½	18	9½	16½	18
Forte	220	12	19	22	3½	6	9
(*226½)	240	3½	9	12½	15	17	19
Hillsdwn	180	10	16	20	3	6	7½
(*186½)	200	1	6½	10½	14½	16½	18
Lonrho	160	9	13½	18	4½	8½	10
(*163½)	180	2	5½	9½	17½	20½	21½
Sears	100	6½	8½	10	2	3½	4½
(*105½)	110	1½	4	5½	8½	9½	10
Thrn EMI	1100	38½	51½	66½	19½	42½	49½
(*1108½)	1150	15½	28½	43	48	73½	79½
Tomkins	220	18½	22½	26½	2½	7½	10
(*234½)	240	6½	11½	16	10½	17½	19½
TSB	240	17	23½	27½	6	11½	13
(*248½)	260	7½	13½	18	16½	22	23½
Wellcome	1000	67½	74	—	0	1½	—
(*1066)	1050	22½	31	—	2	11½	—
Series		Jul	Oct	Jan	Jul	Oct	Jan
Glaxo	700	53½	70½	77½	13½	29½	36
(*731)	750	25½	42½	51½	35½	54½	60½
HSBC	700	62½	79½	97½	19	33½	42½
(*733)	750	35	52½	72	41½	56½	66
Reuter	460	39	50	60	9	14½	18½
(*484)	500	16½	27½	38½	27	33	36½
Series		May	Jul	Oct	May	Jul	Oct
Royal Ins.	300	9½	18	24½	5	12	18
(*303½)	330	0½	6	11½	26½	29½	35½
Series		Jun	Sep	Dec	Jun	Sep	Dec
Fisons	180	11½	18½	24	8	12	15½
(*184)	200	4½	10½	15½	21½	24½	26½
Series		May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Eastern Gp	600	39	55	67	2½	22½	30½
(*633½)	650	9	27	42½	22	48½	57
Series		Jun	Sep	Dec	Jun	Sep	Dec
Natl Pwr	420	37½	41	48½	5	9½	12½
(*453)	460	9	19½	27½	24	28½	31
Scot Pwr	330	17	24	29½	7½	16	19
(*337½)	360	5	10	16	25	34½	36½

April 27, 1995 Tot: 19305 Call: 8522 Put: 10783 FT-SE Call: 1472 Put: 2654

*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 73023	Jun 95	3245.0	3248.0	3220.0	3221.0	11585
	Sep 95	3260.0	3260.0	3250.0	3243.0	54
FT-SE 250 Previous open interest: 4240	Jun 95	3545.0	3545.0	3545.0	3545.0	2
	Sep 95					0
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 400052	Jun 95	92.79	92.79	92.74	92.75	13488
	Sep 95	92.36	92.37	92.30	92.31	11689
	Dec 95	92.08	92.10	92.00	92.03	8176
Three Mth Eurodollar Previous open interest: 1169	Jun 95				93.70	0
	Sep 95	93.60	93.60	93.60	93.56	5
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 685216	Jun 95	95.43	95.44	95.40	95.40	16375
	Sep 95	95.31	95.32	95.25	95.26	26381
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 87007	Jun 95	104-09	104-10	103-23	103-25	40581
	Sep 95	103-25	103-26	103-25	103-13	161
Japanese Govmt Bond	Jun 95	116.63	116.69	116.48	116.69	3313
	Sep 95	115.76	115.78	115.60	115.79	1046
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 172888	Jun 95	92.94	93.18	92.82	92.85	111113
	Sep 95	92.50	92.50	92.23	92.22	1124
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 18975	Jun 95	93.62	93.64	93.58	93.58	1342
	Sep 95	93.53	93.54	93.47	93.48	386
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 40814	Jun 95	96.48	96.52	96.48	96.50	2481
	Sep 95	96.41	96.42	96.38	96.39	970
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 46645	Jun 95	94.40	94.75	94.22	94.49	33900
	Sep 95	93.94	93.84	93.84	93.84	10

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6¾ Finance Hse 7
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7¼ Low 5½ Week fixed: 5¾
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6⅝; 3 mth 6¾. Sell: 2 mth 6⅝; 3 mth 6¾.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6⅝-6½	6⅝-6⅝	6⅝-6⅝	6⅞-6¾	
Sterling Money Rates:	6⅝-6½	6⅝-6⅝	6⅞-6¾	7⅛-7⅛	7⅝-7½
Interbank:	6⅝-6½	6⅝-6⅝	6⅞-6¾	7⅛-7⅛	7⅝-7½

Overnight: open 6, close 7¼.

Local Authority Deps:	6⅝	n/a	6¾	7¼	7¾
Sterling CDs:	6⅝-6½	6⅝-6⅝	6⅞-6¾	7⅛-7⅛	7½-7⅜
Dollar CDs:	6.00	n/a	6.10	6.21	6.44
Building Society CDs:	6⅝-6½	6⅝-6⅝	6⅞-6¾	7⅛-7⅛	7⅝-7½

ECGD: Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make-up day: Jan 31, 1995 Agreed rates Feb 26, 1995 to Mar 25, 1995 Scheme III: 7.87%. Reference rate Dec 31, 1994 to Jan 31, 1995 Scheme IV & V: 6.024 %.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	6-5¾	6⅛-5⅞	6⅛-5⅞	6⅜-6¼	5¾-4¾
Deutschemark:	4⅝-4½	4⅝-4½	4¾-4⅝	4⅞-4¾	5-4
French Franc:	7⅝-7⅜	8-7¾	8-7¾	7⅞-7⅝	8¼-6¾
Swiss Franc:	3⅜-3¼	3⅜-3¼	3⅜-3¼	3⅜-3¼	3¼-2¾
Yen:	1⅝-1½	1⅝-1½	1⅝-1½	1⅝-1½	1¾-¾

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $385.90-386.30 Close: $386.70-387.20 High: $386.90-387.40
Low: $384.90-385.40 AM: $386.60 PM: $386.35

Krugerrand: $389.00-391.00 (£241.00-243.00)

Platinum: $440.50 (£273.20) **Silver:** $5.67 (£3.505) **Palladium:** $159.25 (£98.75)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mid Rates for April 27	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.4790-2.4938	2.4906-2.4938	¼-⅛pr	1¼-1⅛pr
Brussels	45.53-45.80	45.72-45.80	7-2pr	22-14pr
Copenhagen	8.6870-8.7780	8.7630-8.7780	¼-¾ds	¼-¼pr
Dublin	0.9832-0.9912	0.9884-0.9910	par-2ds	3pr-1ds
Frankfurt	2.2136-2.2271	2.2240-2.2271	⅛-¼pr	1⅛-1¼pr
Lisbon	234.00-235.87	235.23-235.87	67-77ds	205-230ds
Madrid	197.86-198.81	198.52-198.81	39-50ds	119-137ds
Milan	2732.30-2752.10	2742.30-2752.10	8-11ds	24-30ds
Montreal	2.2003-2.2073	2.2010-2.2041	0.29-0.34ds	0.54-0.60ds
New York	1.6146-1.6170	1.6156-1.6166	0.05-0.03pr	0.29-0.26pr
Oslo	9.9710-10.0210	10.0060-10.0210	1-¼pr	3⅛-2¼pr
Paris	7.8170-7.8850	7.8710-7.8850	1-1½ds	1½-2½ds
Stockholm	11.5980-11.7720	11.7070-11.7320	1⅞-2⅛ds	5-6¼ds
Tokyo	134.74-135.34	134.96-135.22	⅜-¼pr	1⅞-1¼pr
Vienna	15.58-15.67	15.63-15.67	2⅛-1¼pr	9⅛-7⅛pr
Zurich	1.8290-1.8349	1.8320-1.8349	⅛-⅛pr	1⅛-1⅛pr

Source: Enrel Premium = pr. Discount = ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3745-1.3755
Austria	9.66-9.67
Belgium (Com)	28.26-28.27
Canada	1.3642-1.3647
Denmark	5.4085-5.4135
France	4.8600-4.8630
Germany	1.3746-1.3751
Hong Kong	7.7375-7.7385
Ireland	1.6355-1.6365
Italy	1696.0-1697.0
Japan	83.38-83.48
Malaysia	2.4675-2.4685
Netherlands	1.5375-1.5380
Norway	6.1905-6.1925
Portugal	145.30-145.60
Singapore	1.3928-1.3938
Spain	122.60-122.75
Sweden	7.2698-7.2798
Switzerland	1.1330-1.1340

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6160-1.6187
Australia dollar	2.2206-2.2235
Bahrain dinar	0.602-0.614
Brazil real*	1.4818-1.4861
China yuan	12.75 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.6975-0.7075
Finland markka	6.7825-6.8985
Greece drachma	358.00-365.00
Hong Kong dollar	12.4999-12.5093
India rupee	50.21-51.17
Indonesia rupiah	3569.00-3637.60
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4665-0.4765
Malaysia ringgit	3.9862-3.9903
New Zealand dollar	2.3965-2.4005
Pakistan rupee	49.80 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.990-6.116
Singapore dollar	2.2511-2.2534
S Africa rand (com)	5.8428-5.8517
U A E dirham	5.8650-5.9890

Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	1,000	Legal & Gn	1,500
ASDA Gp	30,000	Lloyds Bk	3,000
Abbey Natl	2,000	MEPC	1,000
Alld Dom	1,800	Marks Spr	5,200
Argyll Gp	4,400	NatWst Bk	5,100
Arjo Wiggn	1,600	Nat Power	1,300
AB Foods	350	Nth Wst W	2,000
BAA	4,700	P & O	2,100
BAT Inds	7,400	Pearson	936
BOC	540	PowerGen	648
BP	7,900	Prudential	3,600
BTR	4,900	RMC	1,200
BT	12,000	RTZ	2,100
Bk of Scot	3,300	Rank Org	2,200
Barclays	3,400	Reckitt Col	3,400
Bass	1,500	Redland	1,600
Blue Circle	2,600	Reed Intl	2,900
Boots	1,000	Rentokil	1,600
Bowater	2,400	Reuters	2,300
Brit Aero	2,400	Rolls Royce	4,800
Brit Airwys	991	Ryl Ins	779
Brit Gas	5,300	Ryl Bk Scot	1,200
Brit Steel	45,000	Sainsbury	2,700
Burmah Cstl	417	Schroders	115
Cable Wire	3,600	Scot & New	1,000
Cadbury	2,100	Scot Power	1,600
Caradon	1,600	Sears	4,600
Carlton Cms	828	Svrn Trent	666
Cm Union	1,300	Shell Trans	6,700
Courtaulds	1,700	Siebe	305
De La Rue	1,200	SmKl Bch	6,400
Eastern Elec	399	Smith Nph	2,000
Enterpr Oil	1,300	Sthern Elec	463
Forte	4,700	Std Chartd	3,000
GKN	1,500	Sun Allnce	1,800
GRE	1,800	TI Gp	739
GUS	2,300	TSB	2,400
Gen Acc	971	Tate & Lyle	2,100
Gen Elec	3,200	Tesco	6,100
Glaxo	5,500	Thames W	639
Granada	3,300	Thrn EMI	1,800
Grand Met	5,900	Tomkins	2,300
Guinness	1,800	Unilever	965
HSBC	2,500	Utd Bisc	1,300
Hanson	5,900	Vodafone	3,200
ICI	6,100	Warburg	545
Inchcape	4,800	Whitbread	2,600
Kingfisher	1,200	Wllms Hld	453
Ladbroke	3,800	Wolseley	1,200
Land Secs	811	Zeneca	1,700

	Apr 27 midday	Apr 26 close
AMP Inc	42½	41½
AMR Corp	67½	68
AT & T	50½	50½
Abbott Labs	38½	39
Advanced Micro	36½	36½
Aetna Life	57½	57½
Ahmanson (HF)	21	20½
Air Prod & Chem	49½	50½
Albertson's	31½	31½
Alcan Alumnm	27½	27½
Alco Standard	70½	71½
Allied Signal	39½	39½
Alum Co of Am	44½	44½
Amax Gold Inc	5½	5½
Amerada Hess	51½	51½
Amer Brands	39½	39½
Amer El Power	32½	32½
Amer Express	34½	34½
Amer Genl Corp	33	33½
Amer Home Pr	76½	77½
Amer Intl	108½	104½
Amer Stores	25½	25½
Ameritech	44	44½
Amoco	65½	65½
Anheuser-Busch	56½	58½
Apple Computer	38½	38½
Archer Daniels	18½	18½
Armco	7	7
Armstrng Wrld	45	44½
Asarco	29½	29½
Ashland Oil	36½	36½
Atl Richfield	115	115
Auto Data Pro	63½	63½
Avery Dennison	41½	41½
Avon Products	63½	64½
Baker Hughes	22½	22½
Baltim Gas & El	23½	23½
Banc One	29½	29½
BankAmerica	49½	50½
Bank of NY	32½	33½
Bankers Tr NY	54½	54½
Barnett Banks	46½	46½
Bausch & Lomb	39½	40½
Baxter Intl	33	33½
Becm Dickinsn	56	56
Bell Atlantic	53½	54½
Bell Industries	19½	20½
BellSouth	60½	60½
Black & Decker	29½	29½
Block (H&R)	40½	41½
Boeing	56½	56½
Boise Cascade	32	31½
Bristol Myrs Sq	65	64½
Browning Ferris	32½	33½
Brunswick	20½	21
Burlington Nthn	59½	60½
CBS	61½	61
CNA Financial	76½	76½
CPC Intl	58½	59
CSX	80½	81½
Campbell Soup	50½	50½
Can Pacific	15	14½
Cptl Cities ABC	83½	82½
Carolina Pwr	27½	27½
Caterpillar	56½	56½
Central & SW	24½	24½
Champion Intl	43½	42½
Chase Manhat	44	44½
Chemical Bk	41½	41½
Chevron Corp	47½	47
Chrysler	42½	41½
Chubb Corp	80½	79½
Cigna Corp	73½	72½
Citicorp	47½	47½
Clorox	57	58½
Coastal Corp	29½	28½
Coca Cola	58½	58½
Colgate-Palmolive	69½	68½
Columbia Gas	29½	29½
Compaq Comp	38½	39
Comp Ass Intl	63½	63½
Conagra	33½	33½
Conrail	53½	54½
Cons Edison	27½	27½
Cons Nat Gas	39	39½
Cooper Inds	39½	39½
Corning Inc	36½	36½
Crown Cork	42½	43½
Dana Corp	25	25
Dayton Hudson	65½	67
Deere	82½	83½
Delta Air Lines	61½	62
Deluxe Corp	30½	30½
Detroit Edison	28½	28½
Digital Equip	46	46
Dillard Dept St	25	25½
Disney (Walt)	55½	56
Dominion Res	36½	36½
Donelley (RR)	33	32½
Dover Corp	65½	64½
Dow Chemical	69½	69½
Dow Jones	33½	34½
Dresser	21½	21½
Duke Power	39½	39½
Dun & Bradstreet	51½	52½
Du Pont	65½	65½
Eastman Kodak	57½	58
Eaton Corp	56½	56½
Emerson Elec	67½	67½
Engelhard Corp	37½	37½
Enron Corp	33½	33½
Entergy	21½	21½
Ethyl Corp	10½	10½
Exxon	69½	69½
FMC Corp	60½	60½
FPL Group	36½	37½
Federal Express	66½	67½
Fed Nat Mtge	86½	87½
First Chicago	55½	54½
First Interstate	76½	76½
First Union Rlty	7½	7½
Fleet Finl Grp	32½	32½
Fluor Corp	50½	49½
Ford Motor	26½	27½
GTE Corp	33½	34
Gannett	52	52½
Gap Inc Del	31½	31½
Gen Dynamics	46½	46½
Gen Electric	55½	55½
Gen Mills	62	61½
Gen Motors	43½	43½
Gen Reinsurance	128	126½
Gen Signal	37	37½
Genuine Parts	39	39½
Georgia Pac	78½	78½
Gillette	82½	81½
Glaxo ADR	23½	23½
Goodrich (BF)	46½	46½
Goodyear Tire	37½	37½
Grace (WR)	53½	52½
Grt Atl Pac Tea	25½	25½
Great Wstn Fin	20½	20½
Halliburton	38½	38½
Harcourt General	39½	39½
Heinz (HJ)	42	41½
Hercules	49½	49
Hershey Foods	53½	53½
Hewlett Packard	64½	65½
Hilton Hotels	76½	76½
Home Depot	41½	40½
Homestake Mng	17½	17½
Honeywell	38½	38½
Household Intl	47½	48½
Houston Inds	39½	39½
Humana	20½	20½
ITT Corp	103½	104½
Illinois Tool	49½	50½
Illinova	23½	23½
INCO	26	26½
Ingersoll Rand	35½	35½
Inland Steel	26½	26½
Intel Corp	101½	99½
IBM	95½	95½
Intl Flav & Fr	51½	51½
Intl Paper	74½	74½
James River Va	27½	25½
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	63½	64½
Kellogg	62½	63½
Kerr-McGee	51½	51½
Kimberly-Clark	57½	56½
Kmart	14½	14½
Knight-Ridder	54½	54½
Lilly (Eli)	73½	71½
Limited Inc	20½	21½
LIN Brdcstng	123½	123½
Lincoln Nat	40½	40½
Litton	35	35½
Liz Claiborne	18½	18½
Lockheed Martin	58½	58½
Louisiana Pac	25½	25½
MCI Comm	21½	22
Marriott Int	36	36
Marsh & McLnn	79	78½
Masco Corp	25½	25½
May Dept St	35½	35½
Maytag Corp	16½	16½
McDonalds	35	35½
McDonnell D	61½	61½
McGraw Hill	73½	74½
Mead Corp	51½	50½
Medtronic	73½	72½
Mellon Bk	38½	37½
Melville Corp	34½	35½
Merck Inc	42½	42½
Merrill Lynch	45½	46
Minnesota Mine	59½	59½
Mobil Corp	94½	94
Monsanto	84½	83
Morgan (JP)	65½	65½
Motorola Inc	57½	57½
Natl Semi	22½	22½
Natl Service Ind	27½	27½
Navistar Int	14	13½
NBD Bancorp	30½	30½
NY Times A	23	23½
Newmont Mng	42½	41½
Niag Mohawk	13½	14
Nike B	73½	75½
NL Industries	14½	14½
Noram Energy	6	6
Nordstrom	39	38½
Norfolk Sthrn	65½	65½
Nthn State Pwr	44½	44½
Norwest Corp	26½	26½
Nynex Corp	40½	40½
Occidental Pet	23½	23½
Ohio Edison	20½	20½
Oracle Systems	29½	29
Oryx Energy Co	13½	12½
Owens Corning	36½	36½
PPG Industries	38½	39½
PNC Bank	25½	24½
Paccar Inc	43½	44
Pacificorp	18½	19
Pac Enterprises	24½	24½
Pac Gas & Elect	27	27
Pac Telesis	30½	30½
Pall Corp	23	23½
Panhandle East	23½	23½
Parker Hannifin	57½	52
Peco Energy	25½	25½
Penney (JC)	44½	44½
Pennzoil	48	49½
Pepsico	41½	41½
Pfizer	85½	86½
Phelps Dodge	58½	58½
Philip Morris	67½	67½
Phillips Pet	35	35½
Pitney Bowes	38½	38½
Polaroid	33½	33½
PriceCostco	14½	14½
Procter & Gmbl	68½	68½
Providian	34½	34½
Pub Serv E & G	27½	27½
Quaker Oats	33½	34½
Ralston Purina	47½	47½
Raychem Corp	35½	36½
Raytheon	71½	71½
Reebok Intl	31½	32½
Reynolds Metals	48½	49½
Roadway Srvcs	47	46½
Rockwell Intl	44½	43½
Rohm & Haas	58½	58½
Royal Dutch	123½	124
Rubbermaid	29½	29½
Safeco Corp	57½	56½
St Paul's Cos	48½	49½
Salomon Inc	36	35½
Santa Fe Pac	23½	12½
Sara Lee Corp	27½	28
Scecorp	16½	16½
Schering Plough	76½	76½
Schlumberger	63½	63½
Scott Paper	87½	88½
Seagram	26½	27
Sears Roebuck	53½	53½
Shell Trans	71½	71½
Sherwin Wlms	36	35½
Stryker Corp	17½	18½
Snap-On-Tools	36½	35½
Southern Co	20½	20½
Sthwestern Bell	43½	43½
Sprint Corp	32½	31½
Stanley Works	40½	40½
Sun Company	30½	30
Sun Microsys	40	39½
Suntrust	53½	54½
Supervalu	26½	26½
Sysco Corp	27½	27½
TRW Inc	72½	73½
TCC Inds	2	2
Tandem Comp	13	12½
Tandy Corp	49½	48½
Teledyne	25½	25½
Temple Inland	43½	44½
Tenet Healthcare	16½	16½
Tenneco	46	45½
Texaco	67½	68½
Texas Inst	106½	105½
Texas Utilities	32½	32½
Textron	57½	57½
Time Warner	35½	35½
Times-Mirror A	18	17½
Timken	39½	39½
Torchmark	38½	39
Toys R Us	25½	25½
Transamerica	57½	58½
Travelers	41½	41
Tribune	58½	60
Tyco Labs	53	53½
UST Inc	28½	29
UAL	118½	118½
USX Marathon	18½	18½
Unicom	25½	25½
Unilever NV	133½	134½
Union Camp	50½	49½
Union Carbide	31	31½
Union Pacific	53½	54½
Unisys Corp	10½	10½
USAIR Group	7½	7½
USF&G Corp	14½	14½
US Life	38½	38½
US West	41½	41½
United Tech	73½	74½
Unocal Corp	28½	28½
Upjohn	36½	36½
VF Corp	51½	51½
WMX Tech	27½	27½
Wal-Mart Stores	23½	23½
Warner-Lambert	80	79½
Wells Fargo	167½	167½
Westinghouse El	14½	14½
Weyerhaeuser	41½	41½
Whirlpool	56½	55½
Whitman	18½	18½
Winn Dixie	55	55½
Woolworth	15½	15½
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	44½	43½
Xerox	121½	125½
Yellow Corp	18	17½

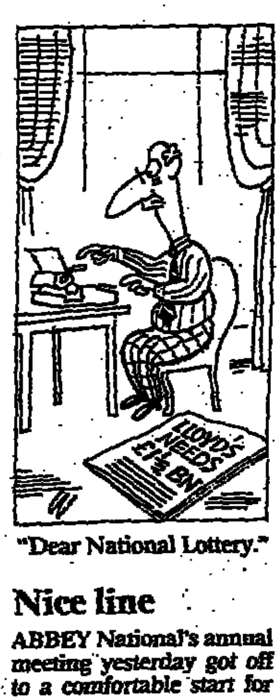
THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Confident note at the Bank

WOULD you ever again trust a £50 note in the wake of Wednesday's swoop on an East End lock-up in which police found eight boxes of counterfeit banknotes? Of the £18 million hoard, £12 million was in sterling, many in £50 notes, a denomination introduced only a year ago. Given the size of the haul, your could be forgiven for viewing £50 notes with increasing suspicion. After all, it is the individual's loss, if duped. However, the Bank of England has no plans to withdraw the £50 issue, adding that the reported amount is only a fraction of the number of genuine notes in issue. At the last count, there were 57 million £50 notes and 340 million £20 notes in circulation. In defence of its issue, the Bank urges the suspicious to study its leaflet, which explains what to look, touch, and feel for when handling real money.

Pig power

PIGS can't fly, but their smells can (*The Times*, Wednesday) as those in Southern England who recently detected a nasty odour will tesfify. The Euro-pong is said to have come from pig stys in Holland, and from around Lake Lucerne. The foul wind has, however, blown good fortune all the way to Canada's Alberta Stock Exchange, where shares of Epicore Networks, an anti-smell company, have risen C$1 to C$6¾ in one week. Epicore is already doing wonders with its products for evil toxins that ruin shrimp farms, and is working on other enzymes that break down waste, of which pigs can be prolific.



"Dear National Lottery."

Nice line

ABBEY National's annual meeting yesterday got off to a comfortable start for chairman Lord Tugendhat. Rosita Evans, a young, smartly-dressed woman, asked for his assurance that the bank was careful in its use of derivatives. This he was readily able to give. In fact his answer sounded almost as if it had been scripted. By a strange coincidence, Abbey's switchboard confirms that a Rosita Evans also works in head office.

Tesco crunch

TESCO is bringing a touch of magic to the Chelsea Flower Show next month. It has teamed up with the Institute of Horticulture and is exhibiting a magic apple tree. The tree, a confection of card and plastic, will bear 12 types of apple, such as the Michaelmas Red and Loxton Superb, which will light up on a press of a button. Tesco plans to stock them for the first time. Will own-label — Clubcard Crunch and Value Brand Violet — follow?

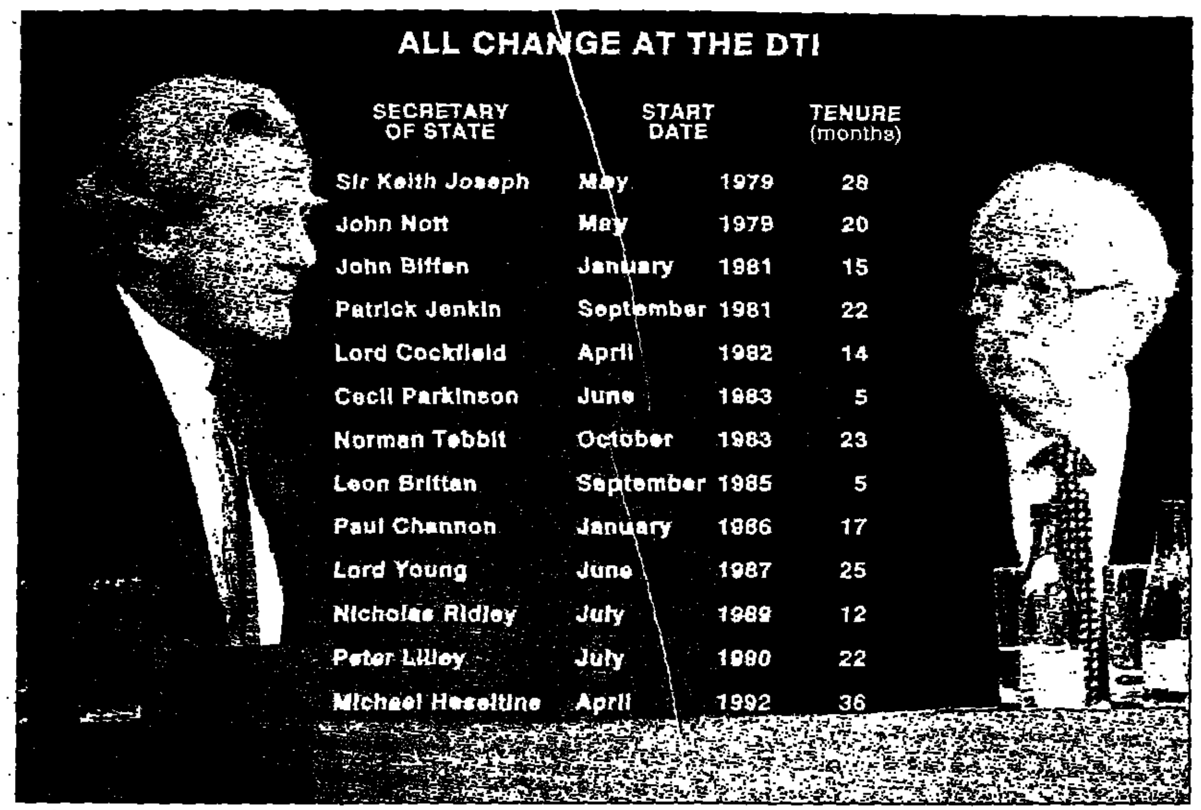
SMITH New Court today bids farewell to main board director Michael Heath, 57, who after 31 years admits he "never had a lot of talent for trading, and Alfred Caplin, who on his 80th birthday last year was given a cake in the shape of The Times *crossword.*

COLIN CAMPBELL

Why bosses back business as usual with Heseltine

Philip Bassett

on how the head of the DTI is viewed by those he serves



ALL CHANGE AT THE DTI

SECRETARY OF STATE	START DATE	TENURE (months)
Sir Keith Joseph	May 1979	28
John Nott	May 1979	20
John Biffen	January 1981	15
Patrick Jenkin	September 1981	22
Lord Cockfield	April 1982	14
Cecil Parkinson	June 1983	5
Norman Tebbit	October 1983	23
Leon Brittan	September 1985	5
Paul Channon	January 1986	17
Lord Young	June 1987	25
Nicholas Ridley	July 1989	12
Peter Lilley	July 1990	22
Michael Heseltine	April 1992	36

Michael Heseltine, left, and Lord Young, are among the longest-serving heads of the DTI since 1979

It used to be known as Whitehall's revolving door, because so many ministers passed through the portals of the Department of Trade and Industry. Not any more. Michael Heseltine, who this month celebrates three years as President of the Board of Trade, is now by a clear eight months the Conservatives' longest-serving DTI boss. The looming privatisation of the nuclear industry and his call this week for business to stop "whingeing" about Europe, is once again putting Mr Heseltine back in the spotlight.

Mr Heseltine has long had if not the best then the best-known long-term career plan in British politics. His scribblings on the back of an envelope in the 1950s reveal that he envisaged himself as Prime Minister in the 1990s.

But aside from his place on the greasy pole of the Conservative leadership, what is the judgment of business and Whitehall of him at the DTI? In spite of crises that would have finished off many another minister — the 1992 coal closures in particular — it is largely positive. From the point of view of business, he has taken a disliked and near-moribund department, riven by self-doubt and ground down by incessant ministerial changes, and revitalised it in a way that many have found to be of genuine practical help.

Mr Heseltine has quietly refashioned the Conservatives' industrial strategy away from a wholly *dirigiste*, studiously non-interventionist role towards one of active involvement. He will claim success for this new approach when he launches on May 22 his second White Paper on Britain's industrial competitiveness. Before that, how does the Heseltine balance sheet look?

Drawing on interviews with leading business and Whitehall figures, this is an attempt to distill their opinion of Mr Heseltine's DTI track record. *The Times* put the balance sheet to Mr Heseltine, who strongly disagreed with some conclusions but was keen to know how business rated his performance.

Plus

☐ Budget: One of Whitehall's key tests is always how well a minister has done in the annual spending battle. Mr Heseltine is judged largely to have succeeded by managing broadly to maintain his budget. Current total DTI spending is planned at £1.33 billion for 1995-96 — down on the £1.59 billion of five years ago. Not a vast decline, especially at a time when the question "but what does the DTI do?" was never very far from Treasury lips.

☐ Morale: much improved. Civil servants not unnaturally prefer ministers who are, or who are at least seen as, movers and shakers. Most DTI officials approve of the structural shake-up of the department and its higher profile. But his energy means that unless officials are plugged directly into the Heseltine mains, they feel detached from the main thrust of the DTI's work. Contact is not eased by awkward official channels to Sir Peter Gregson, the Permanent Secretary. But anyone well connected with those close to Alastair Macdonald, the Industry Deputy Secretary, and Bob Dobbie, head of the competitiveness unit, on the one hand, or the export promoters around Ray Mingay, Director-General of Export Promotion, Neil Thornton, head of European and American exports, and Martyn Baker, an Asia and Africa exporter, on the other feels plugged in to the hotline. David Durie is also thought to be kick-starting the DTI's regional side.

☐ Exports: after years of complaining why the DTI could not be more like other countries' industry ministers — and especially Japan's MITI — business now rates the DTI's export promotion activities. Mr Heseltine's assigning of individual officials to specific countries and sectors and making them available to UK industry is judged to have worked well. Macroeconomic factors may be behind Britain's strong export performance, but the DTI's micro side is seen to be valuable.

> ❛ Heseltine is rated far more highly than most of his predecessors at the DTI ❜

☐ Export credits: an unsung achievement, turning round the problems of export credit insurance that have been felt by many UK exporting companies — but perhaps the single governmental act most deeply felt by companies looking for markets but unsure of how secure such trade would be.

Neutral

☐ Business links: Though Mr Heseltine failed in his early grand strategy for a reshaped National Economic Development Council, his policy of less high profile Whitehall-industry intermingling, including seconding civil servants to the private sector and taking business people into the DTI, has worked well. But his "one-stop shops", called Business Links, where business can obtain all available government help, is seen to be working much less well. Mr Heseltine rejects this, and regards Business Link as a "very significant" initative.

☐ Regulation: Mr Heseltine's supporters make much of his anti-red tape deregulation initiatives. His critics say they have seen it all before, and suggest the red tape level is at least as high now as in 1979, if not higher. The fallback in corporate merger and takeover activity in the recession has also eased "City scandal"-style pressure on the DTI, though the Lord Archer share sale inquiry was far from a DTI plus-point. Mr Heseltine sees regulation as a better-rated success than this.

☐ Inward investment: Though the deadline for the completion of the single market in 1992, coupled with recession across the world, led to a decline in inward investment in Europe and the UK, what there has been — Japanese carmakers for instance — has been impressive. Even Rover's sale to BMW and the Leyland-DAF collapse were turned into at least partial successes.

☐ Research and development: Always uneasy about its own R&D spending, business has welcomed Mr Heseltine's efforts on innovation, with moves such as the Technology Foresight campaign being much-appreciated.

☐ Competitiveness: Some regard Mr Heseltine's White Paper last year as the ultimate sound-and-fury damp squib. Others, including some key business leaders, value it, noting that it has helped pull some Whitehall players reluctant to apply the good-for-business test — such as the Department of Education — more into line. Some Treasury officials and monetarist economists remain deeply sceptical; Mr Heseltine sees it as one of his and the DTI's central achievements.

Minus

☐ Energy: Without exception, business and Whitehall thinks that energy has been a failure. The problems ran on from the October 1992 coal closures: the sale of the coal industry to a single operator, the disputes over electricity prices, the enforced slowdown of gas liberalisation, difficulties over the regulation of the privatised utilities, including the pay of their bosses, and the nervousness over the potential sell-off of the nuclear industry. Mr Heseltine describes coal as "the most difficult political situation" of his career.

☐ Trade: Experts complain that Mr Heseltine appears to have little knowledge of, and no interest in, trade policy and practice. That may well be right, though it may well reflect a wider point: like DTI officials, business leaders feel that as long as they have some contact with Mr Heseltine, then issues are being properly attended to. Richard Needham is a highly active Trade Minister, which means that trade specialists see less of Mr Heseltine. That may be reflected in this judgment of poor performance. Mr Heseltine says that the issue has been dominated by Gatt.

☐ Post Office: An unmitigated fiasco is the view — a privatisation that Mr Heseltine wanted but was unable to deliver. Mr Heseltine wishes "it had been done differently", but remains committed to a future in the private sector.

Mr Heseltine has not the "slightest doubt" that the DTI is now better at what it does. In return, business is still energized by him, and rates him far more highly than most of his predecessors. If the revolving door of the DTI has to turn again, business would prefer it not to be for some time yet.

Camdessus still in hot seat over fire fighting

The IMF chief has had a rough ride, and it's not over yet, says **Janet Bush**

Apocalyptic visions of economic collapse, global contagion, "crises of the 21st century" as Michel Camdessus, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, characterised the Mexican debacle, have stalked this week's G7 and IMF meetings.

Far more than recent turbulence in the currency markets, the question of how to avoid another Mexico and how the world's financial infrastructure can most effectively fire-fight in a world of fast-moving, free and huge capital flows dominated discussions.

It was natural that M Camdessus should paint ghastly visions of an unstable future as part of his pitch for more resources to be invested in the fund, a campaign that has been going increasingly badly.

Last autumn in Madrid, his proposal for a new general allocation of 36 billion Special Drawing Rights became a showdown between the Group of Seven major trading nations, which did not want to pay up, and the developing world, which was fed up with not being consulted.

Then, just months after the G7 decided to review the performance, aids and relevance of the IMF and the World Bank on the 50th anniversary of their foundation, Mexico delivered a bolt from the blue by devaluing the peso and triggering a chronic loss of confidence in markets around the world.

The review of the Bretton Woods institutions suddenly had bite. Far from persuading the rich countries which bank roll the IMF that they should provide even more money, the experience of Mexico has redoubled their scepticism.

None of M Cadessus's list of demands for more funds made headway this week and the communique issued after the interim committee meeting was rife with the convoluted language that signals disagreement.

There was some support from the US and Japan for a special facility of money that could be swiftly made available to countries, like Mexico, whose collapse threatened widened systemic disorder. The support of Robert Rubin, US Treasury Secretary, seems to stem from a desire never to have to go to Congress again for approval of emergency funding and endure the farce that unsettled markets after Mexico.

But the idea of a fire-fighting fund was opposed by most G7 members. They doubt that such a fund would do any good, are unwilling to back a scheme that would swallow up a lot more of their money and want to be sure on what basis such money would be dispensed and to whom.

One of the main worries is that an emergency fund would encourage irresponsible or incompetent governments to work on the basis that, if they pursue the wrong policies and get into hot water, the fund and the world's rich countries will bail them out.

The reluctance to come up with pat, expensive, answers to the ramifications of Mexico has been compounded by a suspicion that the IMF did not do its job very well. Britain asked for a new evaluation unit to be set up to monitor standards of performance within the fund, reporting to the board and not to M Camdessus. The Managing Director did not take kindly to such a notion.

With recent history in mind, the fund is going to have to demonstrate its competence in those areas that can obviously be improved, not only to prove itself a worthy trustee of the world's money but also to fend off even more acute questions about its role.

This week, the interim committee agreed, as did M Camdessus, that surveillance has to be better, that countries must be forced to provide better statistical information, that the fund must have a closer, more continuous policy dialogue with member countries.

But this was the easy part. Until powerful shareholders are satisfied with the IMF's performance and brief and that proper procedures for dealing with financial crises are hammered out, there is little prospect of the fund getting any more money.

The review of the world's financial institutions, including the World Trade Organisation and the various United Nations agencies, will be revisited at the World Economic Summit in Nova Scotia, in six weeks' time. Little concrete is likely to be decided before then. But the prospect of another international gathering with the IMF on the agenda will keep the heat on M Camdessus and his team.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Pay and prospects

From Dr Peter Neufeld

Sir, Your business section once again highlights high pay for directors. I believe that there are serious practical considerations which may have far-reaching effects. My observations are based on experience in higher education, but a similar pattern seems to be apparent in many organisations.

No appointment committee is comfortable when faced with an applicant whose salary would be increased by a very large porportion if appointed. If the candidate is earning £30,000 to £40,000, how can it be right to appoint him to a position carrying £100,000 or more? The consequence is that it becomes virtually impossible for a capable person to work his way up through the ranks of an organisation. The gap between the highest professional grade and the management level is too great.

As a result, it becomes less likely that the persons making the decisive management choices will conform to the First Law of Management — you have to understand the nature of the business. This has a dual effect: decisions are flawed due to ignorance and staff morale drops due to lack of confidence in the management, coupled with a perception of no promotion prospects.

Recent years have also seen growth in large organisations of the principle described as "Line Management". This tends to further stifle the upward dissemination of the information which managers must have to make sensible decisions as staff quickly learn that contradicting the manager does not lead to success.

Yours faithfully,
PETER NEUFELD,
21 Little Birches,
Sidcup, Kent.

Advice to Eurotunnel should be directed to British Rail

From Sir Alastair Morton

Sir, May I offer some information in reply to Mr Sharratt's criticism of Eurotunnel (Business Letters, April 25).

Eurotunnel is not responsible for the operation of British trains to and from the Channel Tunnel. That is, or will be, the responsibility of some part or other of what was British Rail.

If Mr Sharratt knows how to operate profitable motorail services through the Tunnel from major cities in Britain, could he please explain that to the relevant segment of British Rail. They believe trains, tunnels and platforms impose an impossible size limitation.

Through freight trains are running from major cities in Britain through the Tunnel. They have been doing so since last June.

If what Mr Sharratt really wants is the operation of high-speed passenger trains from the north of England and beyond to and through the Tunnel, let him lobby the Government to authorise their building and operation on a new line. The problem prior to that is where a large number of such trains cross the Thames, given the state of existing lines and bridges and the unsuitability of current BR rolling stock, for safety reasons, to pass through the Tunnel.

Mr Sharratt says we do not have any good railway operators in Eurotunnel. We have a considerable number from BR, SNCF, SMCB, RATP and London Underground. Does he wish to suggest other sources?

Yours faithfully,
ALASTAIR MORTON
(Co-Chairman, Eurotunnel),
The Channel Tunnel Group,
The Adelphi,
John Adam Street, WC2.

The Channel Tunnel train calling at Glasgow, Manchester, Liverpool . . .

From Ian Brown

Sir, In response to the letter by Mr George Sharratt regarding Channel Tunnel rail freight services (Business Letters, April 25), I would like to point out that what he says is possible is, in fact, a reality.

Railfreight Distribution, a division of the British Railways Board, serves regional terminals at Mossend (near Glasgow) Trafford Park (Manchester), Birmingham, Willesden (London) and the Port of Liverpool at Seaforth, close to Mr Sharratt's home.

Our Channel Tunnel services, launched in June 1994, have grown from one train a week to 118 trains per week between the UK and continental Europe and vice-versa today. These trains are in addition to the shuttle services operated by Eurotunnel.

Yours faithfully,
IAN BROWN,
(Managing Director),
Railfreight Distribution,
Enterprise House,
167/169 Westbourne Terrace,
W2.

Bank stand-in

From David Markson

Sir, I note that there will be a five month gap between the new Deputy Governor of the Bank of England taking up his post and the old one resigning. Does this mean that the position is not a vital one, or that the Bank is relaxed and confident about sterling until September? Do your readers have any thoughts as to who might make a good "locum", in the meantime?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MARKSON,
27, Tetcott Road,
Chelsea, SW10.

Business letters can be faxed on 0171-782 5112.

Blank pages add to the cost of waste

From Mr Andrew I. Bremner

Sir, I received two copies of a 16-page paper, *Description for Names of Amendments to Premium Trust Deeds*, one from each of my two underwriting agents at Lloyd's. It overflows 12 pages by a mere 13 lines on to the thirteenth page and then has three completely blank pages.

This seems an incredible waste when, for the sake of a little intelligence and the simplest adjustment to the page margins, whether on a manual typewriter or a word processor, this would fit comfortably on 12 pages, thus saving four pages of A4 representing, on a probable print run of 35,000, approximately 100,000 sq ft of print space. Enough to paper over Lloyd's? Quite a lot of trees, too!

But it is not simply the £500 or so of wasted paper that concerns me. The weight of those four pages put the postage up from 19p to 29p per posting second class — an unnecessary extra expenditure of at least £3,500.

Surely, names deserve something better from the promised revamped and more efficient administration? The content of the paper is another matter . . .

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW I. BREMNER,
Cromer Hall, Cromer,
Walkern, Hertfordshire.

Left in the dark

From Nigel Lynch

Sir, Your correspondent George Sharratt (Letters April 25) unintentionally highlights Eurotunnel's major failing; the general public hasn't got a clue what services are using the tunnel, still less what services are projected.

Eurotunnel, as the company owning the tunnel and the stretch of railway line between the terminals at Folkestone and Calais, can only operate services between these points and has chosen to use vehicle carrying shuttles for both passengers and freight.

Time is rented out for other operators to run their services through the tunnel. The first of these referred to by Mr Sharratt — through freight — has been using the tunnel successfully for nearly a year directly linking all parts of Britain with the Continent.

Eurostar will soon introduce through passenger services from other parts of England, in addition to Waterloo, and long distance sleeper trains (eg Glasgow-Milan) are already planned. Motorail has not proved popular within Britain, but thousands of British motorists regulary transport their cars to Calais to join the Motorail services operated by French Railways. There is no earthly reason why such services should not start at strategic points in Britain.

If Eurotunnel is to survive as a company it must do a far more effective educative and selling job on the public, so that demand is created for those services which are not yet planned though perfectly feasible, as Mr Sharratt quite correctly points out.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL LYNCH,
The Whins,
68 West Common Road,
Hayes,
Kent.

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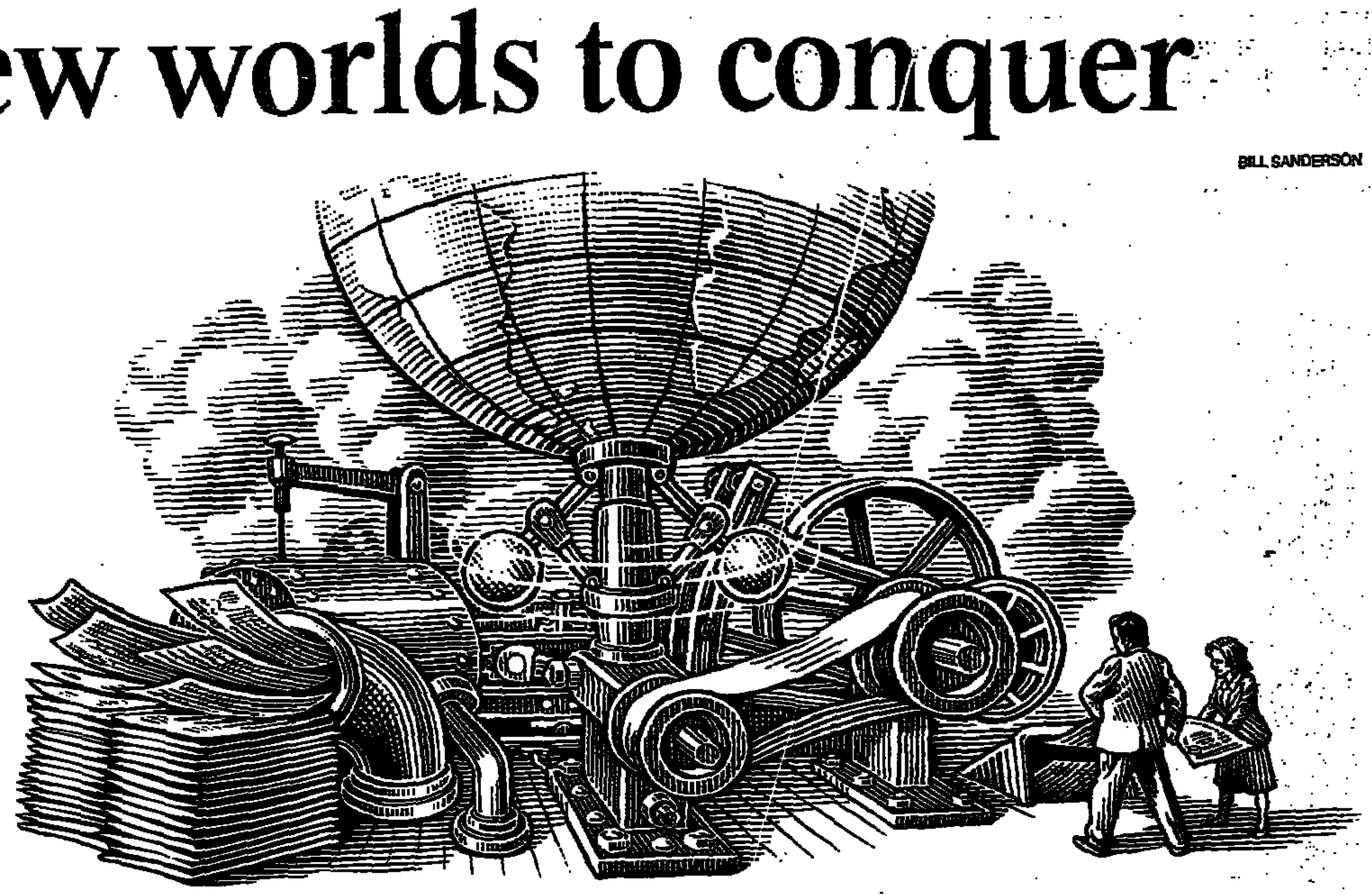
New worlds to conquer

Global custodians now offer much more sophisticated services and guidance, says **David Rudnick** in a special report


BILL SANDERSON

Global custody has come a long way from its humble back-office beginnings. At one time it largely consisted of simple jobs such as cash management and dividend collection. But now it has become a business worth trillions of dollars which lubricates the wheels of world investment by providing pension funds and other institutional clients with information to help them to decide where and how to place their assets.

Today's custodian competes for business by offering sophisticated, high value-added services, and guidance in the perilous waters of derivatives trading.

The continuing expansion of cross-border investment is the lifeblood of global custody. Old-fashioned restrictions that used to prevent domestic institutions from investing overseas are now everywhere in retreat. So one important activity is servicing the needs of continental European pension funds that are belatedly spreading their wings overseas, and this is potentially big business.

"In the past three years we have seen the assets of Swiss pension funds under our custody rise from near zero to $8 billion," says Charles Cassidy of State Street Bank, a leading US custodian.

Pension funds are by far the largest segment of the institutional fund market, and their weight is expected to increase sharply as the population of the developed world ages and state pension schemes are run down. According to Intersec Research, of the $7,000 billion of pension-fund cash serviced by custodians worldwide, 53 per cent still emanates from America, with 16 per cent from Japan and 11 per cent from the United Kingdom. But the Japanese Pension Fund Association expects pension-fund assets to grow worldwide by two-thirds by the year 2000.

This should be excellent news for global custodians, and yet, perversely, a long-awaited shake-out of their ranks seems to be under way.

Technology is the reason. In February, BankAmerica announced the sale of its $500 billion custody operations, after 60 years in the business. The bank cited the high cost of computer technology needed to remain competitive. Prudential, Britain's largest life insurer, is leaving the field for broadly similar reasons.

Mr Cassidy is not alone in thinking that the need for spending on high technology will soon create a more tiered structure in the market by favouring big-budget players. The view is that big hitters such as Chase Manhattan, Citibank and State Street itself will constitute the top tier; and that others, boosted by a strong domestic client base, will stay in the business, but on a second tier.

Meanwhile, competition at the top is sharpening. Overall, Chase is maintaining its lead, having strengthened its position by acquiring US Trust Fund last year. Chase is widely rumoured to be on the prowl now for other banks' custody portfolios.

"Mutual and offshore funds in Europe are our largest single growth component," says Robert Binney, head of Chase's European custody business.

In some people's view, the recent setbacks in Mexico and retrenchment in Eastern Europe have put a dampener on emerging markets as a whole. But long-term prospects, however volatile, are still generally considered bright. Custodians' fees, if not always their margins, are higher given the technical difficulties and costs they incur administering portfolios there.

> 'The need for spending on high technology will soon create a more tiered structure in the market'

Mr Binney reports continuing client interest. "Our fund managers know there will be ups and downs," he says, "but they are in for the long term." He believes that today's emerging markets are tomorrow's core markets, with Eastern Europe being the classic case. "We are under strong client pressure to open up in Russia, so that's what we're doing."

Citibank is also pioneering Russia. "There is significantly increased interest in its equity markets," says Andrew Douglas, a spokesman from Citibank.

Among the UK custodian banks, Barclays has the widest global reach. Alistair Reid, its director of custody, finds that clients select their custodians on a horses-for-courses basis. "An insurance company looks primarily for security. Another bank will insist on access to the SWIFT electronic fund-transfer network, while fund managers generally want speed and accuracy of reporting over a large range of financial markets and instruments."

Derivatives were once regarded almost with euphoria as the most exciting and lucrative products to deal in. Recent experience has sobered perceptions, but derivatives still have their champions, who argue that they are inherently sensible hedging instruments when handled with appropriate care.

"Derivatives are prudent rather than speculative instruments," says Mr Cassidy. "We see our clients increasingly using them. Worldwide volumes are up, and they are unlikely to be affected by the Barings disaster."

Terry Pearson, the head of external relations at Royal Bank of Scotland, comments: "Barings acted as its own in-house custodian. But its clients' assets should all be ring-fenced, out of reach of the liquidator." It seems unlikely that the Barings collapse will have much long-term impact on investors' appetite for derivatives, though they will be treated with even more caution now.

However saddening to the financial community, the affair could even rebound to custodians' benefit by highlighting the advantage of keeping custody separate from fund management, a lesson already drawn by some after the Maxwell affair. In the wake of the Barings debacle, custodians may now claim more forcefully than ever that they have unrivalled independence and expertise to monitor their clients' positions in derivatives trading, and to control it more effectively.

Wisdom of the Prudential

Why the British investor decided to outsource its global custody business

A decision last November by the Prudential, Britain's largest institutional investor, to farm out its £40 billion global custody business, has the bees swarming around the honeypot. The Pru has invited tenders from 10 leading custodian banks, reported to include Barclays, Chase Manhattan, Citibank, Midland and Royal Bank of Scotland.

It will provide the biggest bonanza in years for the fortunate bank to be awarded the mandate. And it is certainly a sign of the times when a leviathan such as the Pru decides to quit the scene, to out-source the custody of its assets, and to concentrate instead on its core money-management business.

Fishwick: "Regulation may be costly"

The logic behind the move seems convincing enough. "Economies of scale will accrue when Pru uses large-scale providers of custody," explains Nigel O'Sullivan of Bacon & Woodrow, the consultants.

It is much more cost-effective, for example, for a big custodian bank to pay someone £60,000 a year to administer overseas equity settlements than for the Pru to do so. "A big specialist player can spread the £60,000 over several clients, sharply reducing his unit costs," Mr O'Sullivan says.

The soaring costs of investment in the sophisticated technology that is inseparable from modern custody would also have been a potent factor behind Pru's move out of custody. The complications presented by the new Crest system of electronic trades settlement are another.

Roger Fishwick, the treasurer of the Pru, says that he did not relish "the complete change in working practices" that would follow the phasing out of all paper share certificates.

A further argument for outsourcing was the imminence of regulation by the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (IMRO) and the Securities and Investment Board (SIB). "Non-banks are still not regulated in the custody field," Mr Fishwick explains, "but when regulation comes, it could be a costly added burden."

So the Pru's decision could herald a counter-trend. It is seen by many analysts in exactly that light. One says: "The money needed to invest in the esoteric markets coming on stream is prohibitive if commitment to prompt settlement, contractual income payouts and acceptance of liability for sub-custodians are all taken into account."

Private, ! or "white", labelling is already on the increase. This is a variant of straightforward out-sourcing, in which smaller custodian banks enter into a junior partnership with larger, better-resourced banks.

The practice has been growing in America. It is not yet so common in the UK, but Europe might well offer opportunities for an established world custodian player such as Barclays.

"Out-sourcing has been going on for a number of years," John Morris of Citibank points out. In continental Europe particularly, he says, custodian banks want to maintain customer relationships, but are unwilling or unable to come up with the investment funds needed. "So they make an arrangement with a global provider like Citi, to offer its products to their customers, either transparently or not."

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A game for big players

A capital base must be broad enough to keep pace with demand

Custody can be a very profitable business, especially for top-tier players such as Citibank, Barclays or Chase Manhattan. Chase, for instance, recorded its most profitable year ever in 1994, with pre-tax profits up by 29 per cent and volumes up 40 per cent on average.

"Custody is a high-volume processing business, and so size is necessary to make money," explains John Gubert of HSBC (Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation) Holdings, a key player in the burgeoning Pacific Rim. "Unprofitable business is the kind that fails to build up critical mass."

There is of course undoubted scope for niche players in specialised or regional markets: Standard Chartered, as well as HSBC, in South-East Asia; Barclays in Africa; Northern Trust and State Street respectively in US pension schemes and mutual funds (unit trusts).

Binney: "Prices go down annually"

But since profitability comes from low unit costs resulting from installing the latest systems technology, only the really big players have a capital base broad enough to fund the huge investment in technology needed to keep up with clients' insistent demands for better, more efficient service at reduced prices.

"Larger players are growing more rapidly than smaller ones," remarks John Morris of Citibank. "The market share of the top five providers is increasing as a total percentage of the growing market."

Robert Binney, the head of European custody business at Chase, adds: "Prices are coming down by around 8-10 per cent annually as increased efficiencies are passed on to clients, but this poses no problem for big providers." Chase is allotting $60 million this year to IT spending on global custody.

Competitive pressures are also playing no mean role in squeezing fees and margins, especially on core custody products such as safe-keeping and income collection. The profit curve rises steeply, however, if clients can be persuaded to buy value-added, affiliated services such as stock lending, performance measurement and, maybe, derivatives-based transactions.

Profitability depends on whether a client allows his custodian to maximise his productive capacity by spreading his fixed costs over a large number of services. As Mr Gubert puts it, "integrating and managing our whole product mix rather than supplying a stand-alone product" seems to be essential.

The big-league custodians are competing more and more on product differentiation, offering enhanced client service and "appropriate" technological back-up. Custodian banks have often integrated their systems with those of their clients. This is not only for clients' convenience, but, on some interpretations, to make their potential defection as disruptive as possible.

"Most clients have wised up to this, though," one custodian admitted wryly, "and in a buyer's market suppliers have to tread more warily."

Others acknowledge that fund managers have also cottoned on to the custodians' tactic of offering loss-leader prices for basic services as a bait to win big deals for more lucrative, added-value services. Opinions differ on which of these are most profitable, but stock lending, performance measurement and derivatives to hedge against risk are recurring themes. Services such as proxy voting and tax reclamation, formerly seen as ancillary, are now viewed by the big operators as standard core businesses.

"Stock lending was under a cloud for some time after Robert Maxwell made it a dirty word in the UK," says Mr Binney, "but though it's revived, it is a relatively low-margin business in this country." London, he adds, remains the unquestioned base for deals in international securities lending, but local operations lending gilts and sterling equities offer a fraction of the spreads available on equity lending in the US, Germany or Japan.

Some custodians are belatedly taking on performance measurement as their latest value-added money-spinner. This means monitoring and providing a reference guide to investment performance to show clients how and why they out-performed or under-performed on a portfolio. Traditionally the province of independent consultants, performance measurement is now being rapidly taken over by big US custodian banks. The UK seems to provide less fertile ground, perhaps because fund managers, rather than ultimate clients, usually decide where to place assets.

Most custodians forecast continuing erosion of prices on bread-and-butter lines. They agree that profitability will continue to depend on identifying suitable ancillary services well up the value chain.

Mr Morris stresses that the bank's revenue base is growing "despite a gentle decline in pricing". But he excludes emerging markets from this adverse price trend. "The investor is willing to pay more for a better custody service there," he says.

This may indeed be so, but the mounting pressures, and perils, of servicing many developing markets could soon separate the sheep from the goats, increasing profits for a decreasing number of players.

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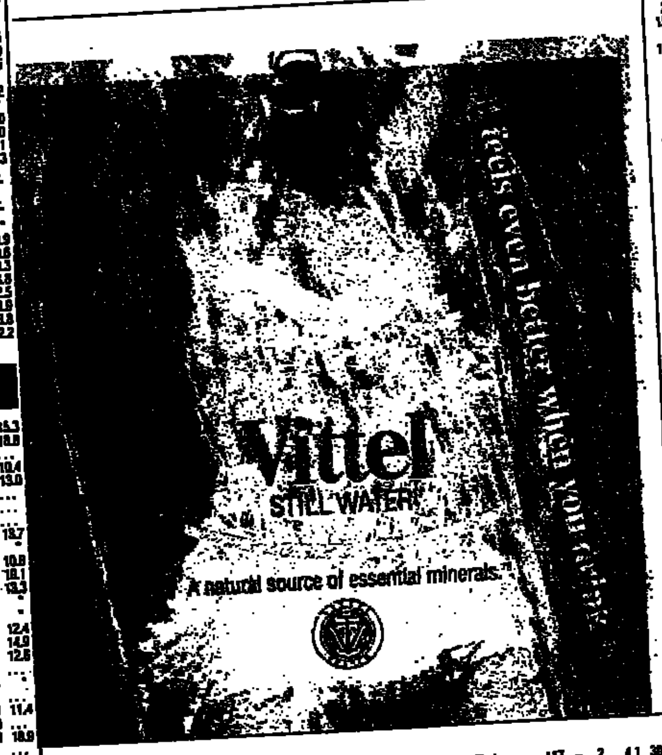
POSTCODE
TELEPHONE
TT280495

[illegible]

Small losses at the close

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.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PHARMACEUTICALS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
590	425	Brit Biotech	495	...	...	...
345	110	Cantab Pharms	113	...	...	...
296	233½	Celltech	298	+ 10	...	...
125	92½	Chiroscience	118	...	...	...
41	31	Cortecs	39¾	...	...	...
187	103	Fisons	184	− 1	3.0	...
741	587	Glaxo	732	− 2	4.8	16.8
124	100	Grampian Hlgt	117	...	6.1	15.0
264	162	Medeva	244	...	1.7	16.7
1½	¼	Premier Health	1	...	...	...
254	230	Quality Care	230	...	2.4	11.4
413	273	Scotia	395	...	...	...
56	32	Shield Diag	45	...	...	...
532	444	SmithKline	497	− 1	3.3	26.6
513	416	SmithKline Uts	484	+ 2	3.4	25.9
1072	650	Wellcome	1066	...	2.7	22.9
934	840	Zeneca	903	− 9	3.9	20.4

SPIRITS, WINES & CIDERS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
563	491	Allied Domecq	548	+ 3	5.2	14.8
408	390	Bulmer (HP)	407	+ 1	3.4	22.0
121	99	Burn Stewart	104	...	6.0	21.4
410	352	Grand Met	402	− 1	4.3	18.1
478	404	Guinness	472	− 2	3.7	14.8
445	337	Highland Distl	357	+ 2	2.6	16.1
217	183	Macallan-Glenl	184	...	0.9	...
710	600	Macdo Mtn 'A'	630	...	2.0	27.1
591	532	Matthew Clark	591	+ 5	4.0	27.1
89	61	Merydown W	79	...	4.0	...
156	129	Taunton Cider	152	− 1	5.6	11.8

WATER

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
520	443	Anglian	497	− 2	5.9	11.2
349	295	Mid Kent Hldgs	336	...	4.4	11.3
575	483	North West	567	− 3	5.3	8.1
908	676	Northumbrian	894	...	3.6	9.8
584	475	Severn Trent	531	− 5	5.5	8.8
2195	1855	South Staffs	2185	...	3.1	13.2
527	459	South West	514	− 1	6.4	7.6
601	517	Southern	590	...	5.1	8.5
584	456	Thames	485	− 3	6.0	7.3
679	587	Welsh	630	+ 3	5.3	6.8
312	252	Wessex	284	+ 2	5.3	7.4
555	472	Yorkshire	550	− 1	5.3	8.1

Source: [illegible]

© USM. # Price at suspension. † Ex dividend. ‡ Ex scrip. ▲ Ex rights issue. ▼ Ex all. § Ex capital distribution. * Figures or report awaited. ··· No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index.

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1995 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gross red yld
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch 10¼% 1995	[illegible]	...	10.16	6.67
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 12¾% 1995	[illegible]	...	12.38	6.81
[illegible]	105	Treas 14% 1996	105	...	13.33	6.97
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 15¼% 1996	[illegible]	[illegible]	14.15	7.23
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch 13¼% 1996	[illegible]	...	12.50	7.25
[illegible]	[illegible]	Conv 10% 1996	[illegible]	...	9.66	7.57
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7% 1997	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.11	7.80
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 13¼% 1997	[illegible]	...	12.18	7.76
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch 10½% 1997	[illegible]	[illegible]	10.04	7.74
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8¾% 1997	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.60	7.91
102	[illegible]	Exch 15% 1997	[illegible]	[illegible]	12.98	8.04
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch 9¾% 1998	104	...	9.38	8.10
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7¼% 1998	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.41	8.12
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 6¾% 1995-98	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.00	8.12
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 14% 1998-01	[illegible]	...	12.14	8.36
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 15½% 1998	[illegible]	[illegible]	12.75	8.15
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch 12% 1998	[illegible]	[illegible]	10.78	8.26
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 9½% 1999	[illegible]	...	9.14	8.26
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch 12¼% 1999	[illegible]	[illegible]	10.85	8.32
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 10½% 1999	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.77	8.32
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 6% 1999	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.51	8.23
[illegible]	[illegible]	Conv 10¼% 1999	[illegible]		9.57	8.26

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

1995 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gross red yld
[illegible]	[illegible]	Conv 9% 2000	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.75	8.29
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8% 2000	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.09	8.25
99	[illegible]	Treas 8% 2000 A	[illegible]	...	8.09	8.26
[illegible]	117	Treas 13% 2000	[illegible]	[illegible]	10.92	8.42
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 10% 2001	[illegible]	...	9.32	8.40
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7% 2001	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.50	8.57
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 9¾% 2002	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.13	8.49
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8% 2003	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.21	8.70
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 10% 2003	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.20	8.62
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 11¾% 2001-04	[illegible]	[illegible]	10.15	8.57
[illegible]	73	Fund 3½% 1999-04	[illegible]	...	4.58	7.10
[illegible]	[illegible]	Conv 9½% 2004	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.82	8.49
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 6¾% 2004	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.56	8.40
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8½% 2005	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.44	8.39
[illegible]	[illegible]	Conv 9½% 2005	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.89	8.48
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 12½% 2003-05	[illegible]	[illegible]	10.19	8.69
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7¾% 2006	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.13	8.39
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8% 2002-06	97	[illegible]	8.25	8.43
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	[illegible]	[illegible]	10.05	8.70
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8½% 2007	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.43	8.39
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 13½% 2004-08	[illegible]	[illegible]	10.42	8.67
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 9% 2008	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.58	8.38
[illegible]	94	Treas 8% 2009	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.24	8.38

LONGS (over 15 years)

1995 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gross red yld
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 6¼% 2010	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.60	8.31
[illegible]	[illegible]	Conv 9% 2011	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.53	8.38
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 9% 2012	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.51	8.38
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 5½% 2008-12	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.28	8.15
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8% 2013	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.25	8.22
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.18	8.33
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8¾% 2017	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.37	8.30
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch 12% 2013-17	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.08	8.52

UNDATED

1995 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gross red yld
[illegible]	[illegible]	War Ln 3½%	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.30	...
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 2½%	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.39	...

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:

1995 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	10%	5%
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2% 1996	[illegible]	[illegible]	1.32	3.21
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	[illegible]		2.51	3.47
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2001	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.29	3.75
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2003	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.39	3.76
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 4⅝% 2004	[illegible]		3.41	3.75
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2% 2006	[illegible]		3.49	3.76
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2009	[illegible]		3.54	3.77
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2011	[illegible]		3.57	3.78
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2013	[illegible]		3.59	3.77
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2016	[illegible]		3.62	3.79
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2020	137	...	3.65	3.79
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2024	[illegible]	...	3.64	3.78
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	[illegible]		3.68	3.80

INFOTECH

How to maintain your gas fire via a telephone

Mike Holderness on software that runs a maintenance system

Bleary eyed you pick up the phone at 7am. It is a recorded voice with a Canadian accent saying: "This is central gas repair services."

Then, disconcertingly, you hear your own voice: "Ms Robinson". Back to the Canadian: "Our engineers will call today, in the afternoon, to correct the fault you reported on . . .". Now a Texan voice takes over the message: "March. The seventeenth."

At last the gas company has given you an idea of when its engineers will turn up. It is a shame that it has retained the unerring instinct for clashes, hitting both the business conference and the school play.

Whether you welcome this as an increase in efficiency, or see it as a nightmare of impersonal communication, it is coming soon to a company near you. A British company has adapted existing American technology to allow maintenance customers and workers to log faults and repairs from touch-tone telephones.

For Grade A emergencies press 4
GED

"Every time we talk to somebody new about the system, they come up with a fresh idea for using it," Ray Halliwell, managing director of Comac Systems, says. "We'd thought about selling it to industrial sites and to water authorities because that is where most users of our maintenance management system are.

"One industrialist, for example, suggested that councils could use it to log repair requests from tenants."

When you call the system, a digitally recorded voice asks you for an identification number, asks you to record your name if it doesn't already know you and then offers you a selection of "menu" choices.

So, for example, a water company manager who has spotted a leaking main on her way to work could call in to the computer from her mobile phone and log the fault automatically. It would first ask for the nature of the call — "To log a fault, press three" — then for details and the location.

The system gives each event a reference number — so, if the main was still leaking the next day, she could call in again, "To review job status, press four", and find out when a repair crew was scheduled to fix it. The crew would call in when they had finished the job, and possibly get directions to the next urgent job.

"If it's the managing director, it wouldn't expect him to know any codes. It would just ask him to leave a voice message," Mr Halliwell says; but "if a specialist calls they're expected to know the codes, and they aren't allowed to leave an incident report incomplete."

Mr Halliwell sees this way of logging jobs as a major benefit to companies using the system. "The main frustration is always finding a maintenance guy to tell them I have problem," he says. "I have yet to find a maintenance facility that was not overstretched."

Comac Connect runs on any personal computer, and can handle up to 64 telephone lines. A two-line system, with customised voice "menus" and responses, costs £15,000. The company says it is the only product on offer which links phone response software with a maintenance management system.

Which companies will use it? To someone used to touch typing computer instructions, it seems a laborious way to interact with a database, especially when the demonstration starts reading all the possible faults which can occur in a boiler room.

Mr Halliwell says: "Most people are happy with the telephone but don't like computer keyboards. We've taken the keyboard away and still given them access to the computer."

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Queensland Transmission
and Supply Corporation
Queensland, Australia

CUSTOMER INFORMATION SYSTEM
Ref: QTSC-CIS

The Queensland Transmission and Supply Corporation (QTSC) is seeking to implement a Customer Information System (CIS) to be used across Queensland's seven Electricity Supply Corporations, servicing 1,400,000 customers.

Information is sought from suppliers of commercially proven software and comprehensive solutions that can be implemented across Queensland. This Request for Information covers software and related solutions only and as such excludes hardware. Organisations offering business arrangements partnering with QTSC to provide the solution will be considered.

To obtain the Request for Information documentation contact
Mr David Thomas at SEQEB
Phone within Australia 07 223 5606
outside Australia 617 223 5606
Fax within Australia 07 223 5697
outside Australia 617 223 5697
Mail GPO Box 1461
Brisbane Qld 4001
Australia

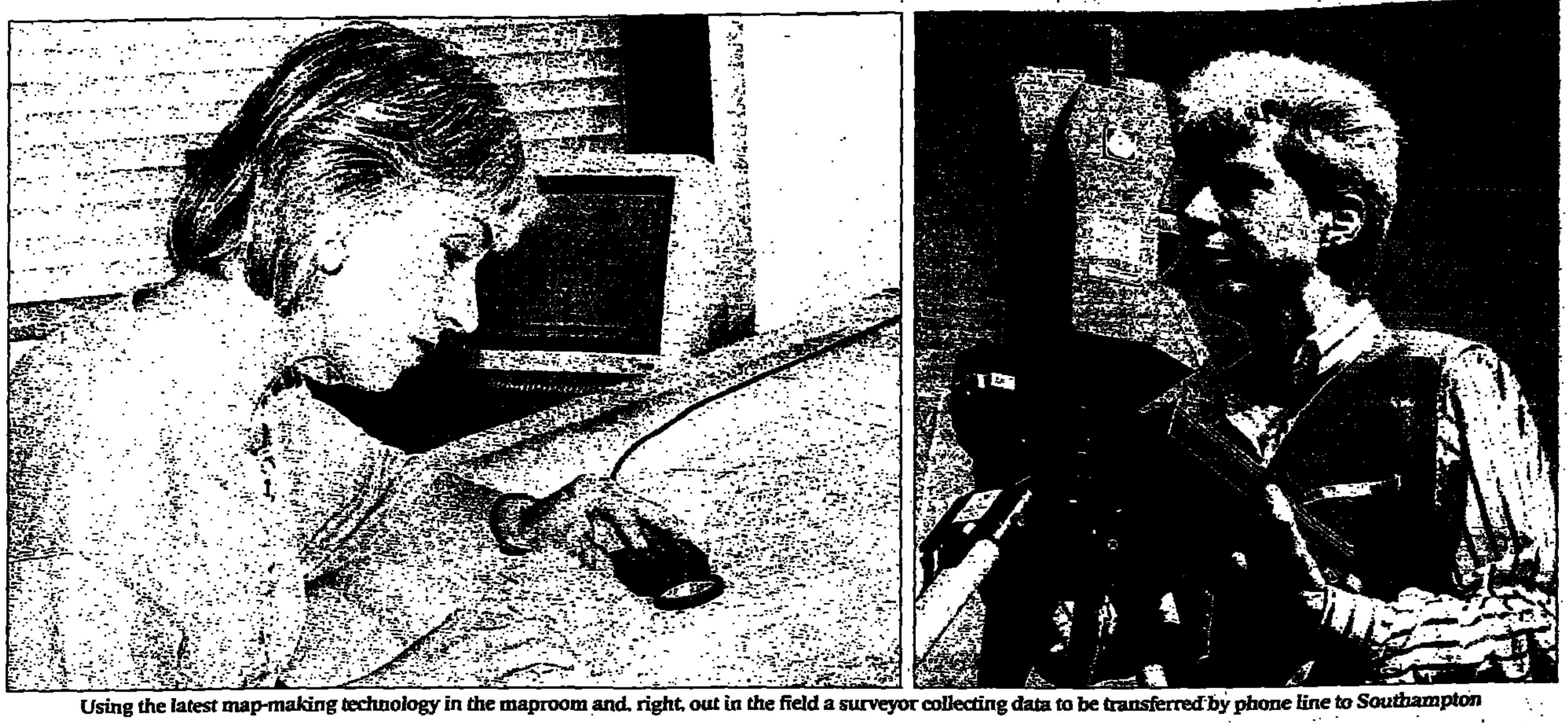
Submissions must be forwarded in the supplied format by 12 noon, 31st May 1995, to the address stated within the documentation. All submissions will be opened privately.

QTSC

E81836

The Ordnance Survey has placed the map of the entire country on 66 CD-Roms, reports **Max Glaskin**

ORDNANCE SURVEY


Using the latest map-making technology in the maproom and, right, out in the field a surveyor collecting data to be transferred by phone line to Southampton

Britain — down to the last centimetre

If, suddenly, the sea rises and sweeps away every home, road and telegraph pole, we need have no fear. This week the entire British Isles has, for the first time, been stored digitally and we will be able to rebuild it exactly as it was from CD-Rom data.

On Tuesday, just before lunch, a surveyor from the Ordnance Survey (OS) used a digital theodolite to take the final reading near Dornoch Firth Bridge, just north of Inverness. The data was transferred down the line to the large-scale topographical database in Southampton, and Britain was digitised from John o' Groat's to Land's End.

Now you are able to buy Britain in its entirety, on 66 CD-Roms, for £31,680,000 (list price, though do ask for discount). Of course people will want only a few maps. The OS says one of the 220,000 digital maps will cost £134. It will be right up to date.

Every day, 700 OS surveyors record hundreds of new measurements, where roads have been realigned, where houses have been built, where factories have been levelled. These details are sent down the line at night and, within another 48 hours they are available to the public through OS Superplan bookshops and map shops.

For Julian Cooper, OS product manager, the completion of the digital map means that he will have a whole product to sell. "My job is to sell data," he says in the OS headquarters on the outskirts of Southampton. "Maps are just one way of presenting geographical data. But by manipulating and selecting what to extract from the main database we can generate a variety of products, some of which may be smaller databases." Already you can walk into 20 map shops around Britain and ask for a customised large-scale OS Superplan map to be printed out there and then.

If the shop has the relevant data stored on its hard-drive, it can centre the map on your home, print circular maps, give field areas, change the scale, add building names or delete street names. If it does not have the right data, it can call up Southampton and get it sent over to its machine.

The main customers for these products at the moment are the utility companies who want to repair Victorian pipes or dig the road up to put down television cables. Farmers are also interested so they can accurately measure the land eligible for set-aside grants or to minimise the amount of fertiliser they buy. And property developers are lost without large-scale maps.

The OS first started to record Britain digitally in 1970, not with the idea of producing a gigantic database but as a method to improve the efficiency of map production. "In 1985 we estimated it would take another 20 years to complete," says Professor David Rhind, director-general of OS. "But by the following year the demand from local authorities and utilities was beginning to be felt." Five years ago the digitisation of Britain was accelerated.

Now that the OS is selling floppy disks, DAT tapes and CD-Roms of the digital data that it has painstakingly gathered with support from the public purse, is there not a danger that they, like bootleg CDs and pirate videos, will be easily copied?

"We have gone to some lengths to protect them," Professor Rhind says. "There is a commercial map-maker in America which adds spurious roads to its maps so it can identify copies. I can't tell you what techniques we are using, but we believe we are well protected."

He is also considering making some mapping available on the World Wide Web section of the Internet. The British Geological Survey already has information pages on the Web and the US Census has maps of some major cities freely available to download via the Internet at http://tiger.census.gov/cgi-bin/mapbrowse, although they do not have street names and so are useless for strangers.

The digital geographical data is already being well used and generating revenue for the OS. It is embedded in popular software such as Autoroute and will come into its own when in-car navigation systems such as TrafficMaster expand.

The information technology that has allowed Britain to be digitised could also spell the end for every map-lover's frame of reference, the National Grid. These giant invisible squares that have hung over Britain for a century are under threat from the emergence of Global Positioning System satellites (GPS), which tell you where you are in latitude and longitude.

"I think that the National Grid will survive for a long time and be used in parallel to GPS," Professor Rhind says. "We have developed a transformation so that you can convert from one to the other easily. We make it freely available if you want it accurate to within two metres. Commercial clients who want an accuracy of 20 centimetres can buy a better version from us."

● *For more details about OS digital products, including the free GPS transformation, call the customer helpline on 01703 792912*

A cash machine in your home

Chris Partridge reports on a development of Mondex that allows you to bank on the Internet

Your personal computer could soon be used to draw electronic money out of the bank, store it on a card, and then use the cash to pay for goods and services over the Internet.

The idea of a cash machine in your home is the next step for Mondex, the "cash on a smart card" being developed by NatWest in conjunction with Midland Bank and BT. The Mondex card holds money in encrypted digital form, and is intended as an electronic substitute for cash. It is due to begin trials in Swindon this summer.

Normally, filling your card with Mondex money will involve either inserting the card in a bank's teller machine or a slot in special phones. Similarly, paying for goods will be a matter of putting your card into a slot in the till at a shop, so that the till can automatically debit your card.

The new scheme will enable personal-computer users to both withdraw Mondex money from the bank and pay for goods and services over the Internet, by inserting a card into a reader installed on the PC and entering a few numbers on the screen.

Users will be able to draw Mondex money from their accounts, and load it onto their card. Subsequently, they will also be able to send the money to other Mondex cards on similarly equipped PCs to pay for goods or services over the Internet.

NatWest is testing software for the scheme over the Internet, sending the code round the world in an attempt to lose or corrupt it. So far, says the bank, it has stood up to rough treatment very well.

"We have to make sure that the money gets where it is meant to," says Richard Fletcher, head of the Mondex development team.

The difficulty with the Internet is that it is not instantaneous. Messages wander until they reach their destination, and the route is not always predictable. But NatWest says that the chips can wait for the money for some time, as long as the Mondex cards at both ends of the transaction are not removed from their readers until the money arrives.

The trial has shown that this process usually takes a matter of seconds, although it can be longer if the Internet is particularly busy.

One drawback at the moment is that the software is not particularly user-friendly and needs to be made much simpler before it can be launched. A system for business and home use will be available free by the end of the year. The card reader will cost about £50.

"There is a huge amount of potential trade," says Mr Fletcher. "Lots of people want to do small transactions over the Internet, but nobody wants to give their credit card number over the Internet and it would be silly to have to wait for a cheque."

NatWest hopes that the first customers for the system will be businesses such as software publishers, selling small packages for a few pounds.

● *Mondex information is available on the Internet World Wide Web at http://www.mondex.com/mondex/*

PETER TREVNOR

Richard Fletcher with a Mondex card: "There is a huge amount of potential trade"

A new videotape can record 49 hours of programmes on a standard-sized VHS cassette

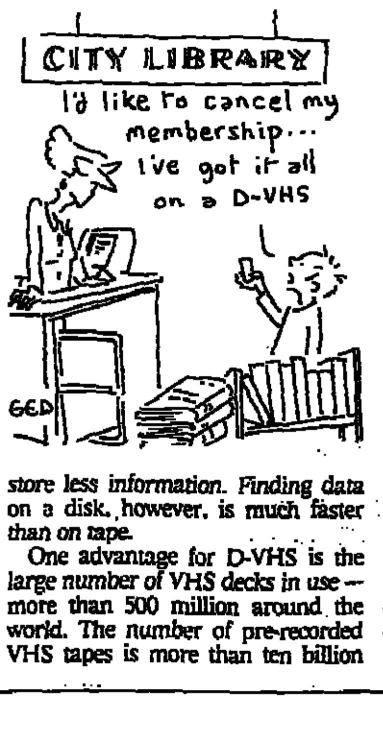
Holding 45,000 floppy disks on one tape

Next month JVC is to start discussions with satellite receiver manufacturers about making the next version of their products compatible with a new videotape that JVC will start selling next year.

The VHS video format was developed by the Japanese electronics company nearly 20 years ago. It now wants to move into the digital age with the introduction of Digital Data VHS (D-VHS), a format able to record up to 49 hours of moving video pictures on a standard VHS cassette.

However, D-VHS is designed to be more than just a video recording format. JVC says that it will be able to hold about 45 gigabytes of data — equivalent to 45,000 floppy disks. It will also be able to handle digital TV broadcasts, computer games and video phone messages. Satellite broadcasters are expected to be the first to transmit digital TV pictures.

With both consumer electronics and the computer industry moving from tape to disk-based formats, is there a need for a new type of videotape? JVC says that tape is cheaper — storing one megabyte of data on D-VHS tape is 3,000 times cheaper than on a hard disk. JVC also says that the digital video disks being planned are likely to cost more and store less information. Finding data on a disk, however, is much faster than on tape.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One advantage for D-VHS is the large number of VHS decks in use — more than 500 million around the world. The number of pre-recorded VHS tapes is more than ten billion and persuading people to junk their existing collections for a new home video system will not be easy.

For this reason, D-VHS is designed to play today's VHS tapes and can make analogue recordings that will play on existing VHS decks. However, digital recordings cannot be played back on today's VHS machines. D-VHS will use special high quality tape, which costs about £10 per cassette while the deck will add around £250 to the price of a VHS recorder. They are initially expected to cost £600 to £700.

D-VHS decks will record five to seven hours of high quality pictures on a cassette, or 49 hours of video pictures that are the same quality as today's VHS recordings. The latter feature could be useful for those on holiday or for video surveillance systems. The system can also record up to six different digital TV channels at the same time.

GEORGE COLE

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Speedy software set for take-off

Clive Couldwell on how teamwork can complete business projects faster

The way companies develop software applications for their businesses is about to change. The Dynamic Systems Development Method (DSDM) could provide lucrative employment opportunities for managers and technical professionals.

A consortium of more than 70 companies has signed up for what is expected to be the first industry-wide standard for Rapid Application Development (RAD), a technique whereby business software applications can be created in a fraction of the usual time. Instead of working out how long it will take to build a given system, the company finds out what of value can be produced within a definite time-scale, say two months.

"This is an immense change in philosophy," Keith Rapley, senior manager of information management research at British Airways, says. "If you ask people to estimate how long something will take, there is an inbuilt tendency in all walks of life to underestimate it. However, if you ask the same person how much they can do in a given period of time, their estimates tend to be much more realistic."

This concept is seen as more suited to the modern business world than the traditional "waterfall" approach to software development, where specifications are batted back and forth and changes take a long time to filter through the system.

DSDM may require employees to gain fresh skills. "You require a mixture of good technical, as well as business and communications skills," Mr Rapley says.

BT is to train its software developers in DSDM. Initially 12 key development staff will attend a one-day awareness course, but the training could eventually involve 5,000 employees. Paul Taylor, BT's applications development manager, says: "We have about 2,500 projects on the books at any one time during a year. We think about half these will be appropriate for DSDM. But we're trying to make it demand-led. DSDM is flexible. Those who are going to be using the system are involved with you all the time, almost changing it on the spot, so there are no surprises at the end and you're not dealing with 17 volumes of requirements that are destined for the shelf.

"Everyone is part of the team. You get away from that us-and-them kind of mentality that perhaps we've had in the past."

Mr Taylor believes that the information systems team is going to need new types of skills. "You're in an environment where you need more consultancy and people-handling expertise, some of the softer skills," he explains. "You need to be able to communicate with the customer. This is something developers haven't done in the past."

ADRIAN BROOKS

Keith Rapley, of British Airways: "You require a mixture of good technical and business skills"

At BA, Mr Rapley separated the skills he needed from the roles that had to be performed within a DSDM team. He calculated that some of these roles would be carried out by users, some by information technology (IT) development staff, but both would work collaboratively. "This means that you can afford to have someone who is very good technically and not all that great on communication, so long as there is someone else in the team who is sufficiently communicative and clued up on the technology to work with him or her. Otherwise, you'd be demanding a superhuman mixture of skills within the team."

Several of BA's programmers have expressed a great deal of interest in becoming certified as professional DSDM practitioners as the IT side of its business becomes more business-oriented: and management is learning more about the IT requirements it needs to support its own applications.

"In some business areas, they want the benefits but don't want to learn very much about IT," Mr Rapley says. "One team learnt a lot about the user's business. On the other hand, we do have some areas where the users are very keen to get involved with the programming; they want to learn things such as Visual Basic, so they can do some of the programming themselves."

Peter Constable, the co-ordinator for the DSDM Consortium, says that companies can apply for DSDM accreditation at two levels. The first is a one-day overview course — called DSDM Aware — which examines why you need RAD, how it works and when to use it. The other — DSDM Practitioner — is a three-day session geared to the particular use of the concept within that company.

- *For further details, contact Peter Constable on 01233 661003 or write to the Secretariat, DSDM Consortium, The Coach House, Church Hill, Kingsnorth, Ashford, Kent TN23 3EG.*

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Fnsry Hse Inc	187.84	203.68		4.14
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0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	135.80	139.80		4.31
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Dealings: 01438 747 414				
Growth Units	197.40	211.10	+ 0.70	2.36
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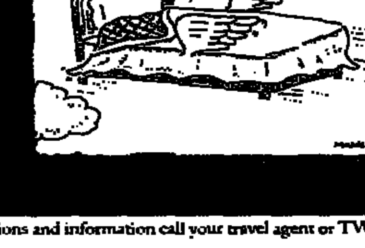

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European	154.30	164.10	- 0.40	0.37
(Accum Units)	202.60	215.50	+ 0.40	0.37
Global Eqty Inc	100.90	107.30	..	1.12
Japan	403.90	429.30†	- 0.20	
Japanese Special	213.50	227.10†	+ 0.10	
Master Accum	231.20	246.00	+ 0.40	0.56
Pacific	309.50	329.30	+ 0.30	
(Accum Units)	362.50	386.10	+ 0.20	
Smaller Cos	104.80	111.50	+ 0.20	0.62
UK Equity Growth	38.40	40.85	+ 0.01	1.59
UK Index Inc	271.80	275.30	+ 0.06	4.17
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UK Smaller Cos	169.40	181.20	+ 0.30	1.92
European	80.81	85.85	+ 0.50	0.38
Japanese Growth	48.79	51.95	- 0.41	
High Income	184.80	197.70	+ 0.78	4.26
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M & S Inv Pfolio	151.20	159.10	..	2.22
-do- Accum	174.00	183.20		2.22
UK Sel Pfolio	130.00	136.90		2.59
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THE TIMES ARTS

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Thoughtful moves from Richard Alston's new dance company in its season at The Place

■ MUSIC

Farewells and laments, poignantly expressed, by the rising young composer Mark Anthony Turnage

Funny how love can be

The Killing of Sister George
Ambassadors

Lord Blue Pencil was still ensconced in St James's Palace when Frank Marcus's rueful comedy was first performed 30 years ago. That may explain why the word "lesbian" never passes anyone's lips in the course of the play, but not, I think, why a piece largely preoccupied with the bond between two women is so reticent about sex. That must be put down to Marcus's determination, unique at the time, to treat the breakdown of a gay marriage as unsensationally, sympathetically and seriously as that of any other marriage. It was a sad loss to our theatre when chronic illness deprived it of his unassuming wisdom.

Of course, "serious" may seem an odd word for a play with so many funny lines or of a production in which the entertaining Miriam Margolyes clomps and growls squatly about in a tweed suit and sensible shoes. But Marcus's real subject is the threat of loneliness and, at the end, the promise of it. To the prejudiced, June Buckridge may be a bull dyke of uncertain years and temper. In fact, she spends the evening losing her job, her partner, her self-esteem, her very identity: everything except her gin bottle and the friendship of the eccentric fortune-teller in the flat below.

Her job is what gives the play its title and much of its reason. She is Sister George, the blunt, bluff district nurse in a radio serial that outmummersets *The Archers* and outdimples *Mrs Dale's Diary*. But she feels threatened by the pitying smiles she is getting at Broadcasting House. Is the bad cold the character has developed a prelude to writing her out of the script? Is she about to be terminally punished for the embarassing incident with the two nuns in the taxi in Portland Place? Not exactly; but the audience ratings need a boost, and that is to be achieved by a death that will unite the listening millions in mourning.

Since June likes to be called George and is apt to lapse unprovoked into folksy argot, that is a blow to more than pride and pocket. It shows the extent to which she and her role have got confused. Her aggressive behaviour under duress exposes uncertainties at home, too. Her lover (Serena Evans) may be called Childie, may want or agree to act the same much of the time, but she is less childish than she seems. With active prodding from Josephine Tewson's Mrs Mercy, June's maddeningly smug and serene boss, she is readying herself for a different nest.

I do not suppose the politically correct will approve of June's barty bravado ("When I was head of hockey, God help the girl who made me an apple-pie bed") or her habit of making Childie ritually eat her cigars or drink her bathwater when she feels irked. But need that trouble us? Marcus is not fundamentally caricaturing the sexual politics at work here. More and more Evans makes us see that, for all her frills, thumbsucking and general immaturity, this Baby Doll is playing Nora to June's Torvald. She is humouring and bolstering a bully and liking the task less and less.

For a time, I wondered if Margolyes lacked the toughness and authority her role needs. Small, jerky gestures, plus an occasional outbreak of girlishness, suggested a diffidence that is not in the text rather than the insecurity that is. But if so, it is no great matter. The truculent humour is there, and, increasingly, the baffled pain.

The performance certainly answers anyone who believes the plot could as easily involve a heterosexual couple. In 1965, what were the emotional prospects for a dumpy, ageing lesbian who had lost her lover? Come to that, what are they now? To judge by Margolyes's crushed, crumpled looks, a loneliness way beyond the average.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Nursing fear and resentment: Serena Evans as the pliant Childie and Miriam Margolyes as the bullying June in *The Killing of Sister George*

Playing fast and loose

The Taming of the Shrew
Haymarket, Leicester

THIS is a revisionist *Shrew*, with a vengeance, and the vengeance is taken by the play itself. Twist Kate's final speech — the one urging wives to be submissive to their lords — so that it faces the opposite way and what have all the taming scenes been written for?

Shakespeare is a rich pudding that can be cooked in a multitude of moulds, and the contents of *The Shrew* are sickeningly unpalatable to modern taste; but here we have a conclusion that goes way beyond irony. The humiliating words can be stretched only so far, though Josette Simon gives generously of her raised eyebrows and conspiratorial smiles, while James MacPherson's Petruchio stands smugly centre-stage, puffing on his lord-and-masterful pipe.

To supplement the words and clarify this Kate's intentions, the director makes her pick up her trusty shotgun, decide not to shoot her man and fire it at the sky. She did this at the start of the play and a pheasant fell to earth, but now a gigantic pair of horns descends above Petruchio's head. Kate steals towards him, nestles her head dutifully upon his shoulder, but her broad grin tells us plainly that in the months ahead she will frolic with any Paduan male who takes her fancy.

Last year the director, Mihai Maniutiu, brought his Romanian *Richard III* to Leicester: dark, barbaric, sinisterly comic, the production was one of the most thrilling evenings of Shakespeare I have seen. *The Shrew* offers far less to work on but the opening picture of Simon, sinuously stalking the walkways of Doina Levinta's gymnasium set, promised a heroine with a lively mind of her own. Yet while Maniutiu comes up with amusing business for his cast, his repetition of similar jokes brings diminishing returns and he provides little in the way of psychology.

No explanation is suggested for Kate's discontent. Jules Melvin's Bianca is a proper little madam, but Alfred Marks plays a colourless Baptista, giving no clue to their upbringing.

Evidently what the women are after is sex. We see the newlyweds vigorously at it — or rather, we see the enveloping duvet heave and roll, in strobe lighting that climaxes with a firework. Next morning Simon emerges well-satisfied, her man's sturdy groin having proved to be all she hoped for when he sat her on it during courtship. Maniutiu therefore cuts all the lines about throwing the bed around: this is not how Petruchio kept her awake all night.

With the production geared towards the ironic finale, the characters sometimes mean what they say, sometimes not. Unless signalled through caricature, it is hard to distinguish real feeling from collusion. The result is a production that is pretty, energetic and jolly but fragmented by the imposed contradictions.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Shrew untamed: Josette Simon's sinuous stalking in the opening scene promises a Kate with a mind of her own

MUSIC: Birmingham and London concerts

Responsible for the rhythm

Finnish RSO/ Saraste
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

LISTENING to Nielsen's *Helios Overture* played with such fresh colouring in the brass and such characterful phrasing in the strings, more than one member of the audience in Symphony Hall must have regretted that there was no more Scandinavian music in the programme. In fact, after Beethoven's C minor Piano Concerto and Tchaikovsky's B minor Symphony, they did offer the *Scene with Cranes* from Sibelius's *Kuolema* music, which was a welcome inspiration, and *Finlandia*, which was going a little far, perhaps, at the end of a long evening.

Jukka-Pekka Saraste's relationship with the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra, whose principal conductor he has been since 1987, is interesting. He clearly does not believe that he is there to beat time — his baton can more often be seen to describe the shape of a melodic line than to indicate the metre behind it, while his left hand waves around in a variety of distracting gestures — but there is no evidence that this confuses rhythmic awareness.

It is as though he had secured discipline in his musicians by mutual agreement, rather than by drilling them. Whether that is true or not, they seem to play with an individual sense of responsibility which is refreshing on a touring circuit occupied from time to time by more dubiously motivated ensembles.

The major technical problem in the *Pathétique* was the apparent inability in most of the Finnish woodwind, bassoons above all, to approach a true pianissimo, let alone the more distant extremes at the quiet end of the dynamic range. Or perhaps it was a failure on Saraste's part to demand such attenuations in colour, in spite of Tchaikovsky's obviously urgent appeals for them at several emotionally crucial points in the score.

Certainly, this was not the most psychologically searching interpretation of this profoundly enigmatic work. Crackingly dramatic in the Allegro vivo section of the first movement and appropriately overfestive in the third movement, it confronted death in the finale with all due seriousness but little hint of awe or fear or regret.

The soloist in the Beethoven concerto was the egregiously thoughtful Russian pianist Alexei Lubimov. Admirably uncompromising though his performance was in its firm and perhaps even dry articulation, and interesting though it was in its reading of textural variants, it would have been so much more convincing with just a little charm here and there and with spontaneous rather than deliberately calculated rhythmic wit in the last movement.

GERALD LARNER

Memories of two modern masters

British Music Now
Barbican

THE final concert in the BBC's showcase "British Music Now" was not so much a matter of now as then. In an age when much contemporary music has become ephemeral, it was salutary to be reminded — in magnificent performances by the Nash Ensemble under Martyn Brabbins's direction and the BBC Symphony Orchestra conducted by Oliver Knussen — of music by two composers who made a significant impact on the British musical scene in the Seventies and Eighties.

Knussen himself was once the great white hope of the post-Britten generation, though he has always produced painfully slowly. His one-time pupil Mark Anthony Turnage, on the other hand, has grown from the archetypal *enfant terrible*, widely perceived as an anti-Establishment East End wide boy (though he was never really that), into a massively gifted and fluent — but not yet dangerously fluent — composer. (Both, significantly, were pupils of the late John Lambert.)

Oliver Knussen's *Triptych* of 1975-78 — *Autumnal*, Op 14, for violin and piano: *Sonya's Lullaby*, Op 15, for piano solo: and the lovely *Cantata*, Op 15, for oboe and string trio — was the means through which the composer was able to complete his Third Symphony (1973-9). Doors to new areas of language, condensed in scale and economic of means, these pieces contain the essence of the composer's musical personality.

So do Mark Anthony Turnage's *Three Farewells* of 1990: pieces for flute, bass clarinet, harp and string quartet which, when they first appeared, shocked this listener with their sparseness and the obviousness of their structures and models — the second piece is but a recitative played by solo viola, heard over a cello drone. With hindsight they speak with poignant eloquence, laying bare both the composer's heart and his superb craftsmanship.

Darkness of a more theatrical nature, as well as a typical palette of oily wind timbres and aggressive percussion, permeates Turnage's *Lament for a Hanging Man*, a meditation on suicide with a double text taken from Sylvia Plath and (in Hebrew) from the *Lamentations of Jeremiah*. The solo soprano here was the excellent Fiona Kimm.

After the interval Turnage's orchestral *Night Dances* (1990-1), the work which won him his first major prize while still a student at the Royal College of Music, reminded us of his astonishing facility with the orchestra and his equally impressive ability to integrate influences — Berg, Miles Davis, Ravel, Stravinsky — without pastiche. *Night Dances* happens also to be an incredibly beautiful work, without the rough edges of *Greek* or the garish expressionism of *Three Screaming Popes*.

And finally there was Knussen's own opera *Where the Wild Things Are*, composed between 1979 and 1983 and for a time a *cause célèbre* at Glyndebourne. Though nominally written as a work for children, with its expressionistic exploration into fear and fantasy it is a piece just as pertinent for us universally insecure adults.

This performance, led by Rosemary Hardy's convincingly naughty Max and complemented by some appropriately coiffured Wild Things whose moanings and rantings were effectively amplified in swirling surround-sound, swept all aside, showing Knussen's dense whirlwind of breathtaking invention as the masterpiece it assuredly is.

STEPHEN PETTITT

A good idea, but it's not quite enough

DANCE

Ben Wright/Andrew Robinson
The Place

When the Richard Alston Dance Company was launched last November, one of its aims was to turn its home base, The Place in London, into a hotbed of experimental dancemaking that could flourish alongside Alston's own work. Now the Spring Loaded festival at The Place brings us the first public performances of work created by company dancers under the new setup.

Both Ben Wright and Andrew Robinson would appear to approach their choreographic forays with a good idea of what they hope to achieve. But like many at an early stage in their careers, they have not yet developed the skills to see beyond their own comprehension of where the work is going. Take Wright's *Now (in fragments)*, a collaboration with the Dutch composer Michel van der Aa. "It deals with the power we acquire when we consider our own present moment," the programme note tells us and to be sure the piece does have a focus, in the person of Wright himself, that tends to overwhelm everything around it.

The choreographer acts as a passive linchpin who exerts a controlling influence over the other five dancers. They, meanwhile, relate in manipulative or supportive partnerings, or break free in wanton displays of individual strength. Their competitive mimicry speaks of the wary communality of the group.

But form is muddied, directions become too circular. And van der Aa's score, a disquieting and abrasive sound picture, begins to grate. Pretty soon we are counting down the seconds along with the video projection overhead which is helpfully displaying a digital clock running backwards. If Wright is trying to say something about time and its power, it is not clear.

Robinson's new solo for himself, *Orange Peel*, also suffers from the lure of a competing visual gimmick, in this case a film by Robinson and Darshan Singh Bhuller. Their images begin with a close-up of an unpeeled orange and move on to people in a pub, scenes of copulation and cloudy skies. Robinson's own motions, a flurry of directional alternations and backward propulsions, look impressive, but never enough to tear us away from the film.

The best ideas at play are in *Tank*, a work by Robinson and Wright that was first performed at the South Bank last year. The two confine themselves to a 13ft-square space underneath a large upside-down tank. Right away two images are established: of fish moving through water and of wrestlers taking part in a match. A jacket is removed in readiness, the participants begin by sizing each other up.

Their moves are weighted as if executed in a medium heavier than air. As the dancers venture into closer contact — clutching, tumbling over one another — it starts to look more like a wrestling match, although one suspects the choreography is trying to say something about the way men relate to one another without resorting to the usual gay-straight stereotypes. The final image is potent — Robinson slips his jacket onto Wright's arms from the front, locking him into a metaphorical straitjacket while he walks free.

DEBRA CRAINE

The Richard Alston Dance Company in *Tank*

FROM HENRY WOOD TO VICTORIA WOOD.

DAY AFTERNOONS ON RADIO 3. 'MINING THE ARCHIVE', 3:00PM-4:20PM.
FOLLOWED BY CLASSIC BBC RADIO COMEDY IN 'TURNS OF THE CENTURY', 4:20PM-4:30PM.

■ WEEKEND

The sparks will fly on Sunday when Maceo Parker brings his funk band to Blackheath

■ WEEKEND

In Mold, previews start for Kathryn Hunter in the 1950 Tennessee Williams play, *The Rose Tattoo*

THE TIMES ARTS

■ WEEKEND

Baroque guru Gustav Leonhardt conducts Bach and Purcell in a BBC broadcast from Bristol

■ VIDEO ART

The catalogue for Video Positive may be hard to follow, but more than 70,000 people will attend the festival

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

LONDON

PAGNY AND DIMITROVA: You may not recognise the names now but that may change soon. Sir Georg Solti is promoting these two young pianists, Patricia Pagny and Lora Dimitrova, and will introduce their concert tonight (works from Scarlatti, Chopin and Ravel). An *exceptional chance for some talent-spotting*
Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-935 2141). Tonight, 7.30pm. ♿

MACEO PARKER: Expect great fireworks when saxophonist icon Parker turns up with his funk band including Fred Wesley and Pee Wee Ellis. A one-off concert treat from James Brown's *ex-right hand man, standing room only.*
Blackheath Concert Halls, Lee Road, SE3 (0181-463 0100). Sun, 8pm

MALCOLM SARGENT CENTENARY CONCERT: A host of stars, including Bonaventura Bottone, Kyung-Wha *Chung and Willard White, join conductor* Andrew Davis, the BBC Symphony Orchestra and 600 massed voices for a programme of Verdi's *Requiem*, Walton's *Te Deum* and Bruch's Concerto for Violin No 1, in aid of the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children.
Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212). Sun, 7pm ♿

ELSEWHERE

BRISTOL: Gustav Leonhardt conducts *the Orchestra of the Age of* Enlightenment for the last in this season's popular **BBC Live Baroque** series. Tonight's programme includes works from Muffat, Purcell, Bach and Zelenka and is broadcast on Radio 3.
St George's, Brandon Hill (0117-923 0359). Tonight, 7.30pm ♿

HALIFAX: The **National Young Musicians' Chamber Music Festival** returns after last year's success as a showcase for some of the country's finest young musical talent. Seven *evening concerts and a local education* programme form the core of the celebrations, along with opening and closing concerts from professional ensembles — the Endellion String Quartet tonight and the contemporary Psappha next week.
Square Chapel Centre for the Arts, (01422 349422). Until May 6

GLASGOW: After last week's tantalising Lott recital, **Scottish Opera** formally opens its season with a revival of Verdi's mighty *Forza del Destino*. Richard Armstrong conducts Lisa Gasteen, a Cardiff singer of the World, *as Leonora and Deng as Alvaro.* Roberto Goldschlager directs Elijah Moshinsky's original production.
Theatre Royal, Hope Street (0141-332 9000). Tonight, 6.30pm ♿

MOLD: First night of previews for ***The Rose Tattoo***, *Tennessee Williams's* 1950 paean of joy for the erotic life. Kathryn Hunter plays the widow Serafina who rediscovers herself with a Sicilian truckdriver. Helena Kaut-Howson directs.
Theatr Clwyd (01352 755114). From tonight 7.30pm, opens May 2. Then Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm; mats May 13 and 20, 3pm. Until May 20

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican, Impressionism in Britain (0171-638-4141) **National Gallery**: Gombrich on Shadows (0171-839 3321) **National Portrait Gallery**: The Road from 1945 (0171-306 0055) **Royal Academy**: Odilon Redon (0171-*439 7438*) ***Serpentine***: *Take Me (I'm Yours)* (0171-402 6075) . . **Tate**: Willem de Kooning (0171-887 8000) **V & A**: Prints of the Raphael Cartoons (0171-938 8500)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ ***House full, returns only***
▨ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

☐ **AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'**: Exhilaratin' song' n' dance show created from the hits of Fats Waller. Non-stop energy.
Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm

☐ **CONVERSATIONS WITH MY FATHER**: Final performances here for Judd Hirsch, re-creating his Tony *Award-winning performance in Herb* Gardner's play, covering 40 years of Jewish experience in New York.
Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 7616). Tonight, 7.45pm, tomorrow, 2.30 and 7.45pm ♿

☐ **THE DUCHESS OF MALFI**: Juliet Stevenson and Simon Russell Beale in Webster's tragedy of incest, murder and the borderland of the mind. Philip *Franks directs* Greenwich Theatre's sell-out success.
Wyndhams, Charing Cross Road WC2 (0171-369 1746). Mon-Sat, *7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm*

☐ **IN PRAISE OF LOVE**: Peter Bowles and Lisa Harrow in Rattigan drama about *bravely facing death. Interesting and* finally touching as it shows the effects, ill and good, of emotional restraint.
Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm

☐ **A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM**: *Adrian Noble's richly beautiful* production from last year's Stratford. The outstanding cast includes Alex Jennings, Stella Gonet, Desmond Barrit and Barry Lynch.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7.15pm; tomorrow, 2pm and 7.15pm ♿

☐ **ONE FINE DAY**: Joe McGann's compelling performance as a devoted *dad caught up in a child-abuse case.* Dennis Lumborg's engrossing one-man play.
Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm.

☐ **LOVE IS A DRUG**: Oxford Stage Company's enjoyable and energetic *commedia dell arte piece La Creduta* Morta ("The woman who appeared dead"). Fast and furious farce directed by Antonio Fava, leading expert on commedia playing.
BAC, Lavender Hill, Battersea, SW11 (0171-223 2223). Tue-Sat, 8pm; Sun 8pm. Until May 4 ♿

■ **SKYLIGHT**: Michael Gambon and Lia Williams play an estranged couple. *The man's son pleads for their* reconciliation. Richard Eyre directs David Hare's tenth play for the National.
National, (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Now previewing, 7.30pm; opens May 4 ♿

☐ **A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE**: David Thacker's acclaimed production, with Bernard Hill superb as the NY longshoreman consumed by unspeakable love for his niece.
Strand, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800). Tue-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Thurs, 2pm, Sat and Sun, 3pm

▨ **YO YO**: Prizewinning first play by Dino Mahoney, set in Cornwall where an irrepressible teenager keeps crossing the path of a schoolteacher.
Warehouse, East Croydon (0181-680 4060). Previews begin tonight, 8pm

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

CAPTIVES (15): Romance in a prison dentist's surgery. Modest British film that loses its way in melodrama, with Tim *Roth and Julia Ormond.* Director, Angela Pope.
MGM Haymarket (0171-839 1527) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

EXOTICA (18): Inventive variations on the theme of voyeurism from quirky Canadian director Atom Egoyan. With Bruce Greenwood, Mia Kirshner.
Clapham Picture (0171-498 3323) **Lumiere** (0171-836 0691) **Renoir** (0171-*837 8402*) **Richmond** *(0181-332 0030)*

EYES WITHOUT A FACE (18): Welcome revival of Georges Franju's *haunting horror film about skin grafting* made in 1959. With Pierre Brasseur, Alida Valli, Edith Scob.
ICA ♿ (0171-930 3647)

◆ **LEGENDS OF THE FALL** (15): Bogus epic about a Montana family early in the century. With Brad Pitt, Aidan Quinn and Anthony Hopkins. Director, Edward Zwick.
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **MGM Chelsea** *(0171-352 5096)* **Coronet** ♿ (0171-727 6705) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426 915683) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

THIN ICE (12): Gauche but sweet British film about lesbian ice-skaters. Fiona Cunningham Reid directs Charlotte Avery and Sabra Williams.
MGM Chelsea *(0171-352 5096)* **MGM Tottenham Court Rd** (0171-636 6148)

CURRENT

◆ **AN AWFULLY BIG ADVENTURE** (15): A teenager's postwar theatre experiences. Fascinating abrasive drama from Beryl Bainbridge's novel. Mike Newell directs Alan Rickman, Hugh Grant and Georgina Cates.
MGMs: Fulham Road ♿ *(0171-370 2636)* **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **THE MADNESS OF KING GEORGE** (PG): Nigel Hawthorne reigns supreme as Alan Bennett's tormented monarch. A fine film transfer by stage director Nicholas Hytner; with Helen Mirren and Ian Holm.
Chelsea *(0171-351 3742)* **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Curzon Phoenix** (0171-369 1721) **MGMs: Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

DEATH AND THE MAIDEN (18): A decent transfer of Ariel Dorfman's play, but a cramped, impersonal film for Roman Polanski. With Sigourney *Weaver, Ben Kingsley, Stuart Wilson.*
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Curzon West End** (0171-369 1722) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Screen/Hill** ♿ (0171-435 3366)

◆ **NOBODY'S FOOL** (15): Endearing slice of small-town Americana, with Paul Newman, Melanie Griffith, Bruce Willis.
Empire (0800 888911) **MGM Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Odeons: Kensington** *(01426 914666)* **Mezzanine** ♿ (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098)

◆ ***ONCE WERE WARRIORS*** *(18)*: Forceful New Zealand tale of Maori culture ravaged by the urban ghetto. Lee Tamahori directs a powerful cast.
Electric ♿ (0171-792 2020) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **OUTBREAK** (18): Taut virus thriller that turns silly. With Dustin Hoffman and *Rene Russo and Morgan Freeman.* Director, Wolfgang Petersen.
MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

Visions of the future

Guy Walters on a festival which explores the artistic potential of the new electronic media

To the uninitiated, Video Positive, "The UK's International Festival of Electronic Arts", *might appear to* be a farrago of digital techno-kerfuffle. Well, it is. The catalogue is harder to follow than the instructions to your video-recorder. Entries that include such throwaway anthropomorphic monikers as "dog-boys" and "leopard-girls" hardly help those who think a Cyberpunk is a hooligan from the Arctic Circle.

However, although the medium of video and electronic art has its own vocabulary (like any other art form), it is not a closed one. Last year's festival had more than 50,000 visitors, and this year, according to its director, Eddie Berg, the figure will be nearer 70,000. Video Positive's claim to be "international" is justified by contributions from Japan, the United States, Germany and France.

1995 marks the fourth Liverpool-based Video Positive. Previously, there had been nothing like it in the country that keeps *You've Been Framed* on its screens, "although there had been a tradition of them throughout Europe and North America," says Berg. "We were fairly well behind — there had been various attempts to do things, but none of them had been very high-profile or successful."

Since video technology became cheaper and hence more available, video art has enjoyed a growth in popularity. Berg calls it "chicness", which suggests neo-conceptualist gimmickry, albeit without the mob of heavy-walleted buyers that can be found to sponsor the likes of Damien Hirst.

Buyers may be deterred by the size and technical nature of video installations — after all, where can one find the space to display Stephanie Smith's and Edward Stewart's *Intercourse*, in which two large video projections of mouths are shown on facing walls? But if sofas can be moved to accommodate dead fauna, then so can pictures on walls.

"It may be that collectors have got the kind of living rooms that you and I haven't got," says Berg. Apart from collectors, however, video installations are likely to remain in galleries such as those Video Positive is employing — the Tate, the Walker and even Albert Dock's Grand Hall, among others.

Video Positive includes 22 installations, and during the week there will be an information overload of screenings, performances, lectures and discussions. A student conference sold out in two hours, which confirms Berg's belief that "a lot more students are working in electronic media".

Nevertheless, Edward Stewart feels that Britain's art institutions are lagging behind their European partners. Stewart teaches at the art school in Glasgow, where, he says, "there is a photography department but not an audio-visual department. That said, some of the work that's coming out is quite exciting." Art students who wish to develop their multimedia credentials can at least now turn to the Moving Image Touring and Exhibition Service (MITES), a national support service of equipment and facilities.

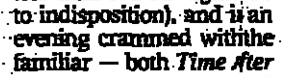
Some of the exhibitors at Video Positive do not wish to be seen exclusively as video artists. Marion Kalmus, who started off restoring frescoes and graduated from Goldsmiths' College in London a year ago, says that she "wouldn't want to be known as a digital artist or a 'technobabe'. It's an authorship tool."

The natural progression from video art is to art on the already-jammed information superhighway. "Cyberspace may also be in the process of becoming a 'curatorial space'", says Erkki Huhtamo, professor of media studies at the University of Lapland, in an essay in the catalogue, in which he foresees the notion of "site-specific" art becoming anomalous. Meanwhile, it's a ferry down the Mersey.

● *Video Positive runs at various locations in and around Liverpool from tomorrow to May 6. Exhibitions run until June 4. For information, call 0151-709 2663, or, of course, e-mail: moviola@cityscape.co.uk*
● *MITES is on 0151-707 2881 and the e-mail address above*

A still taken from *Deserter*, a video work by Marion Kalmus, who "wouldn't want to be known as a digital artist"

Mature masters



Farlow/Robinson/Alden
Pizza Express, W1

THE guitarist Tal Farlow and his fellow American, the tenor saxophonist Spike Robinson, share an ability to create tuneful, immediately accessible but subtly skilful mainstream jazz.

Both players are currently concluding short seasons at Pizza Express in Dean Street, and they were joined for this date by the American guitarist Howard Alden, nearly 30 years Robinson's junior but, like the saxophonist, firmly rooted in the unpretentious sophistication of the swing-to-modern style championed by Alden's record label, Concord. The quintet was completed by a UK rhythm team, bassist Dave Green and drummer Martin Drew.

The contrast between the two guitarists' styles was a memorable feature of the evening's music. In full cry, as it was in *Everything Happens to Me*, Farlow's is a unique approach: notes jostle each other in slithering, blindingly fast runs; alternatively, he brings textural variety to the band sound by suddenly resorting to cascades of lightly struck harmonics. Alden, on the other hand, favours a more conventional style: he has a clear, sweet-toned, pure sound especially suited to providing clean, long-lined solos.

Even with Robinson at less than full strength (due to indisposition), and it an evening crammed with the familiar — both *Time After Time* and *Misty* received airings — the three front-line players provided that could have served a a masterclass in relaxed, mature mainstream jazz.

CHRIS PARKER

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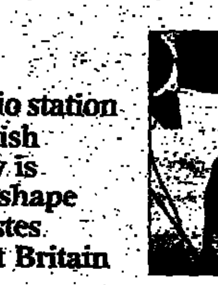
[illegible]

■ POP 1

How a radio station in a tiny Irish community is helping to shape musical tastes throughout Britain



■ POP 2

Caitlin Moran in praise of TV's *The White Room*, and its amusing, likeable presenter, Mark Radcliffe

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ POP 3

Take That's third album has a thoroughly modern spring in its step and no shortage of big ballads

■ POP 4

A relaxed and generally well judged effort from Aaron Neville on his latest album, *The Good Times*

Turning singles into long-players

How did a tiny Irish radio station become just about as powerful as Radio 1? By listening to its listeners, **Alan Jackson** reports

Record companies grumble that it is hard to get singles played by Atlantic 252. Paul Kavanagh, general manager of the longwave independent radio station, has a ready response to that: "Yes, but it's even harder to get them off."

To glance down the list of 30 titles currently most favoured by his programmers is to understand this strange logic. Despite now being absent from the Top 40, Annie Lennox's single *No More I Love You's* continues to receive some 90 spins per week. Still enjoying heavy rotation too are less-than-fresh 45s by Scarlet, Sting and Mike & the Mechanics. Thanks to Atlantic, all have had their shelf-life extended.

This fact does more than highlight the idiosyncratic programming policy of an outfit broadcasting from the tiny community of Trim in Ireland's Co Meath, but with more than five million listeners in mainland Britain. It also makes clear the growing disparity between the sound of fast-turnover daytime Radio 1 and that of the many smaller rival stations within the independent network. Accordingly, record pluggers have been quick to recognise a new truth: success no longer depends solely on finding favour with the tastemakers at Broadcasting House. More and more, the charts bear the influence of their listener-sensitive and frequently more conservative equivalents at Atlantic, Virgin, Capital and elsewhere.

Imagine you are a station head whose only remit is to keep happy those ratings-conscious fillers of the commercial purse, the advertisers. Do you, like Radio 1's much-maligned controller Matthew Bannister, seek to do that by shrugging off your inarguably outdated image and repositioning yourself within the marketplace as a network that is truly representative of British youth culture? Do you heck. You give your audience what it wants — and lots of it. In Atlantic's view, that means responding to the fact that radio listeners are more often passive rather than active music consumers, that they take a while to decide they like a song, that familiarity breeds, not contempt, but contentment.

"Our research shows that songs are at their most popular when they're dropping down the charts, not when they're going up," Kavanagh says. "Traditionally, record store sales have been used as the barometer of popularity, but all they show is the number of individuals who have actually gone out and bought the record. Universal popularity may be something else. Radio listeners are not necessarily the kind of people who are passionate about a particular song: more likely, they kind of like hearing it. And the key to our success is that we talk to our listeners constantly, learn what they do and don't like. We base our chart on audience reaction, the number of people who ring in to request individual records. That's why it moves an awful lot slower than the national one."

> ❛ Songs are at their most popular when they're dropping down the charts, not going up ❜

Increasingly, the tortoise is now influencing the hare. Nothing so very new about that, says Jonathan Morrish, director of corporate publicity at Sony Entertainment (UK): as long ago as 1985, independent radio was the prime mover in pushing Jennifer Rush's *The Power of Love* to the No 1 spot and British sales of more than a million. Like the most recent example of the same phenomenon — Celine Dion's equally emphatic and long-running sales triumph *Think Twice* — Rush's success showed how people power can outweigh the dictates of the style police.

Morrish feels that Radio 1's original role as a representative of the broadest-possible plank of popular culture was not sustainable and can never be reclaimed. These are the days of niche marketing and audience fragmentation, it seems. "For example, back in the late 1970s, when it had a peak audience of 23 million listeners, Radio 1 might play a Gamble and Huff tune followed directly by the Sex Pistols — and its hegemony was reflected in the charts," Morrish says. "Such an astonishing breadth of music would never be found now on one station, when you have 17-year-olds listening to Kiss FM, 23-year-olds listening to Capital and so on."

But, with increasing numbers of listeners tuning in to frequencies where the agenda is determined by fiscal rather than public service broadcasting considerations, it is unsurprising that the winners in the nationwide airplay stakes are those records that charm the most listeners while alienating the fewest. "They may have other unique factors, such as the tone of their presenters or the way they present the news and weather," Morrish says. "But, by and large, all the independent stations are exploiting the same kind of music."

And at all hours of the day and night. "We're like McDonald's," Kavanagh says. "Wherever in the world you go — in our case, whenever in the day you tune in — your Big Mac will taste the same."

Good news, you might think, for pop's universal hit-makers, those artists whose popularity spans the various demographic divides. But, Kavanagh maintains, listenership is not achieved by loyalty to the blandest brands. "Phil Collins was the biggest radio artist in the world in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Stations couldn't get enough of him. But his latest LP contained only one hit and attempts to reactivate it couldn't disguise the fact that it just wasn't all that good. So, for our purposes, he's gone off slightly. The same with Gloria Estefan and Michael Bolton. We're not featuring their recent material as heavily as once we would have."

Which underlines the cruel truth of today's independent local radio world: you're only as good as your current single. Tough if you're a mega-star on auto-pilot, but great news if you're a new talent with a sound that's fresh and listener-friendly. Jo Bennett, co-ordinator of regional radio promotions for A&M records, points out that it was the ILR stations that helped launch the UK careers of Dina Carroll, later to become our biggest-selling act of 1993, and of America's Sheryl Crow, one of last year's most significant chart newcomers. "It is not surprising that people high up in the music industry are starting to take notice," she says. "The Radio 1 playlist may still be important, but the influence of regional radio has skyrocketed."

Given Atlantic 252's promise to feature as many as 16 singles an hour — none pre-1985, and a third of them less than six months old — it can be seen how significant those five million-plus listeners may have been in helping playlisted records to sustained success in the official UK Top 75 chart. Indeed, Kavanagh says that the south London all-woman group Eternal had enjoyed 1,500 spins of its single *Stay* before anyone called the station staying they were tired of hearing it. — an admission that could make feasible a new form of promotion by record companies. Wily marketing men and women might choose to spend all day on the phone, posing as listeners desperate to hear a single on their own label. The yet-more-wily might even decide to demand that a rival's product be banished. This is not as far-fetched as it sounds. Chart positions and profits are at stake and, hey, it's a jungle out there.

● *Alan Jackson interviews Celine Dion in The Times Magazine tomorrow*

TONY MAXWELL

He makes them, and breaks them: Paul Kavanagh, general manager of Atlantic 252, broadcasting out of Trim, Co Meath

Alive! On stage! The cream!

Mark Radcliffe was one of many things that made *The White Room* the exception that proved the rule about music TV shows

Music television presenters must be one of the most hated breeds of people on earth; just after traffic wardens and just before those shoppers who write out cheques at the tills in busy supermarkets on Friday evenings. Music is such a personal, objective thing; tied into soundtracking first kisses and holidays, nervous breakdowns and sunny Sunday picnics. Any presenter bouncing up late at night and warbling on about what an "exciting show we've got lined up tonight" and "now it's time for the one and only, the wonderful, the marvellous — Stinky No-Hopers!" is bound to tread on someone's aesthetic toes.

The music fan is so woefully under-catered for on television that each successive music show is watched with a hint of desperation. This will probably be your only chance this year to see your favourite artist on television — will they appear? And if/when they don't pop up, rendered glorious by cathode ray, then the music fan sulks, and takes it out on the most visible object — the presenter.

The ways of taking it out on the presenter can range from simply giving one of Paddington Bear's Long Hard Stares every time you see them in the street to organising a letter-writing campaign to every newspaper in the land, calling for immediate and public execution.

CAITLIN MORAN

I speak from grimy experience here — the two years I was a music television presenter were the two most stressful, miserable, unpleasant years of my life. I became paranoid, agoraphobic and could neither leave the house nor answer the phone. If one of my children announced that their intention was to become a music TV presenter, I would lock them in a large, wooden box and post them to Tristan da Cunha, where television is yet to be introduced. It would be for their own good.

But this isn't about *me* and my imaginary offspring; this is about Channel 4's new music show, *The White Room*, which ended last week to tears in my neck of the woods at least, as a) the music, while *occasionally* veering into Old Grandad's World, was generally an inspired choice of Classic Bands We Love and Weird Bands Who Are Just Getting Big, and b) for the first time in ages, the producers didn't demand that the presenter bob up and down like a demented wombat.

The White Room's presenter was calm, collected, amusing, informed and *likeable*. His name is Mark Radcliffe, and his cool is legendary. In his day-job as a Radio 1 DJ, Radcliffe *always* lets the music come first, and only interjects if there's important information to be relayed, and then with a laid-back, gentle yet abstract humour that obviously attracted the attention of Malcolm Gerrie, executive producer of *The White Room*.

"Why am I so cheery? Drugs. It's been a good day." Gerrie blasts joviality down the phone at 1,000 decibels in a thick Geordie accent. "I've been a fan of Mark's for ages", he continues, "and I was surprised no one had put him on television. We arranged a meeting in a hotel, for which I was three hours late. Mark turned up with a broken leg, and all through our meeting George Best was weaving around in the background. It's the best business meeting I've *ever* had.

"We were both adamant that the presenter shouldn't get in the way of the music — that there would be no interviews with bands on the show, no features, just bands doing what they do best. Playing. Loud."

When asked to recall his favourite moments from the series, Gerrie almost has a fit. "You cannot *possibly* ask me to name just a *couple* of moments!" Er, I just have.

"Well, P.J. Harvey was stunning, the way she was banging that walking-stick in time to the music. We got a lovely handwritten letter from her, saying it was the best TV she's ever done.

"I had all the hairs on the back of my neck doing a Mexican wave when Bobby Womack came on. He hadn't turned up for the rehearsal, and we didn't know if he was one of those stars who just don't turn up or one of those who, five minutes before you go on air, demand to have £5,000 stuffed down their trousers. But he turned up in time for recording, and he was stunning.

"Ray Davies and Damon Albarn doing *Waterloo Sunset* and *Parklife* ... Björk surrounded by our 'ironic' dancers ... I could go on for the next three days."

Will there be another series? "Well, we got audience figures of 1.7 million, which makes it the most successful music show of the past ten years. Our fingers are crossed."

NEW ALBUMS: Take That, No 1 in the chart, head for No 1 in your heart

Adult-orientated teen dreams

TAKE THAT
Nobody Else
(RCA 74321 279092)

WHAT puzzles me about Take That is how they have emerged with so much credibility — even dignity — from the sort of hysterical mêlée that quickly consigned earlier stars to the dustbin of teeny-pop history.

But while the Bay City Rollers and Bros were soon forsaken by their fickle fans and routinely derided by everyone else, Take That have achieved sustained mega-sales while commanding the sort of critical admiration that Wet Wet Wet or Elton John would surely die for. What is their secret?

As the group's third album, *Nobody Else*, makes clear, they boast in Gary Barlow a good-looking man who can both write and carry a decent pop tune. Combining innocent charm with a self-centred arrogance, he is clearly a new George Michael in the making. "Every girl needs a guy like me," he proclaims with breathtaking confidence on *Every Guy*. But then, as he points out on the more solemn *The Day After Tomorrow*, "Being loved is a big responsibility ... It's so easy to walk away and leave that lady flat."

And, compared to recent albums by Elton and the Wets, *Nobody Else* has a thoroughly modern spring in its step. There is no shortage of big ballads such as *Holding Back the Tears* and the No 1 hit *Back For Good*. But the more upbeat songs — *Sunday to Saturday*, *Hate It* and *Sure* — are tricked out with modish swingbeat arrangements, while *Lady Tonight* boasts a rap intro and an almost happening hip hop beat.

Take That: pop pin-ups with extra added credibility

When their last album, *Everything Changes*, was shortlisted for the Mercury Music Prize, Take That put all the "teen fodder" criticisms behind them. Now they are bound for the realms of pure pop nirvana. But still the nagging feeling remains: is that it?

AARON NEVILLE
The Tattooed Heart
(A&M 540 356)

THE most visible, and muscular, of the Neville Brothers, Aaron Neville remains best known in this country for his overwrought (and uncredited) duet with Linda Ronstadt on the hit *Don't Know Much*. Although in the past his passion for applying an ultra-wobbly vibrato to even the simplest of melodies has often obscured the seductive quality of his high tenor voice, on this outing he has cut back on such embellishments to produce a carefully crafted collection of standards that will appeal to those who like their easy listening seasoned with a dab of country and a lot of soul.

His versions of Bill Withers's *Use Me* and Kris Kristofferson's *For The Good Times* are, like most of the album, relaxed and generally well-judged.

TOP TEN ALBUMS

1	Picture This	Wet Wet Wet (Precious)
2	Greatest Hits	Bruce Springsteen (Columbia)
3	Dummy	Portishead (Dummy)
4	No Need To Argue	Cranberries (Island)
5	The Colour Of My Love	Celine Dion (Epic)
6	Medusa	Annie Lennox (RCA)
7	The Choir	Anthony Way (Decca)
8	Definitely Maybe	Oasis (Creation)
9	Wake Up!	Boo Radleys (Creation)
10	Parklife	Blur (Food)

Compiled by MRIB

KINGMAKER
In The Best Possible Taste
(Chrysalis 8 32487)

VICTIMS of bad timing and the frighteningly rapid turnover at the cutting edge of British pop, Kingmaker last appeared as young hopefuls with their album, *Sleepwalking*, in 1993, but now return as fading might-have-beens.

Which is a shame, because this is a handy collection of rock songs that suggests the trio from Hull has plenty more to offer. There are several songs — such as *One False Move*, which sounds like the Cure rocking out on amphetamines — that are worth returning to.

But if Kingmaker were not to be eclipsed by the various waves of post-Suede bands, then an album of monumental inventiveness and imagination was called for. Unfortunately this is not such an item.

MATTHEW SWEET
100% Fun
(Zoo/BMG 72445)

ALWAYS a difficult man to pin down, Matthew Sweet writes quintessentially American pop songs, usually about relationships, in a style that would happily slot in to any number of musical gaps between Neil Young and Green Day. He then turns them over to his band of 1970s New Wave veterans — including guitarists Richard Lloyd (of Television), and Robert Quine (once of Richard Hell and the Voidoids) — to record with a minimum of studio polish.

The result, on *100% Fun*, is a sort of garageband rock'n'roll deluxe: tremendous tunes played and sung with noisy bravado.

DAVID SINCLAIR

NAXOS
DDD

20th Century String Music

Béla Bartók (1881-1945): Divertimento, Sz 113
Benjamin Britten (1913-1976): Simple Symphony, Op. 4
William Walton (1902-1983): Two Pieces for strings from the film Henry V
Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971): Concerto in D Major

Bournemouth Sinfonietta
Richard Studt, Conductor

Bela Bartok and *Igor Stravinsky* both born on the cusp of the twentieth century, equally shocked the musical establishment of the time with their daring innovation and creativity. Featured on 20TH CENTURY STRING MUSIC, is *Bartok's* baroque inspired *Divertimento* and *Stravinsky's* melodic and rhythmic Concerto in D major.

Simple Symphony, written in the thirties by a precocious and brilliant *Benjamin Britten* is a tour de force from a young genius, whilst *William Walton's* two exquisite vignettes from Laurence Olivier's 1944 *Henry V* are masterpieces in their own right. All this and more from NAXOS - the world's leading classical budget label - with unsurpassed quality, range and value at only £4.99.

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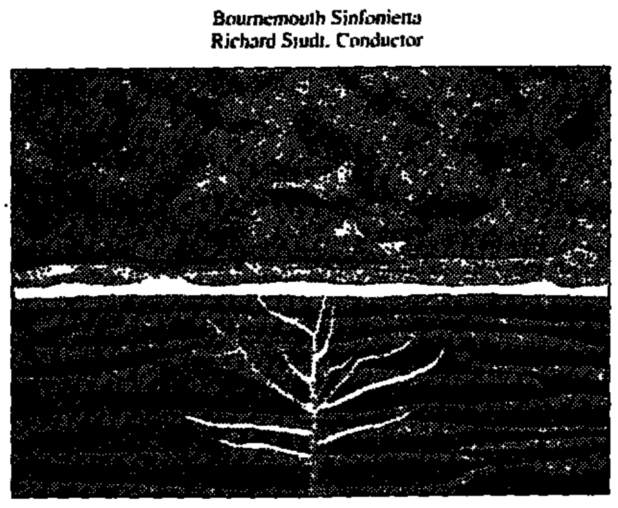

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Southport Warrington

- Music Week -
BEST INDEPENDENT
RETAILER OF THE YEAR 94

Privy Council

Power to exclude evidence limited

Lobban v The Queen

Before Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Mustill, Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead and Lord Steyn

[Judgment April 6]

A judge in a criminal trial had a discretionary power to refuse to admit relevant evidence on which the prosecution proposed to rely if he considered that its prejudicial effect outweighed its probative value, but he had no discretionary power on that basis at the request of a defendant in a joint trial to exclude evidence tending to support the defence of a co-defendant or to edit a co-defendant's statement on which the co-defendant wished to rely.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council so held in dismissing an appeal by the appellant, Dennis Lobban, from the dismissal by the Court of Appeal of Jamaica of his application for leave to appeal against his convictions of murder.

Mr Peter Thornton, QC and Mr Nicholas Paul for the appellant; Mr James Guthrie, QC, for the Crown.

LORD STEYN said that three robbers armed with guns entered a house. During the robbery they shot and killed three men. The appellant Lobban and Steve Russell were charged with the three murders. Both pleaded not guilty.

After the prosecution closed its case, and after Lobban had testified, the trial judge upheld a submission that Russell had no case to answer and discharged him. The jury convicted Lobban of all three murders.

In his statement to the police Russell admitted driving the men to and from the house but he denied knowing their intentions. At the end of the statement he identified Lobban as one of the robbers.

The prosecution tendered Russell's statement as part of its case against him. Counsel for Lobban asked the judge to direct that the final part of the statement, which implicated Lobban by name, should be excluded from the statement before it was admitted in evidence. Prosecuting counsel and Russell's counsel objected, and the judge ruled that the statement should be admitted in its entirety.

The part of Russell's statement implicating Lobban was prima facie relevant and admissible evidence against Russell. It was not evidence against Lobban. After the discharge of Russell his statement implicating Lobban was irrelevant to the remaining issues. In summing up the judge warned the jury that the statement was not evidence against Lobban and to discard it entirely.

Did the judge err in not directing the last paragraph of Russell's statement or at least that part of it which named Lobban to be edited? The last paragraph was of significant relevance to Russell's case. The judge was entitled to take the view, as he did, that it would be unfair as against Russell, to exclude part of his exculpatory explanation. It was impossible to say that he erred in that view.

But Mr Thornton challenged the judge's exercise of his discretion not to edit Russell's statement on an alternative legal basis. For that purpose he accepted that it was in Russell's interests that the whole of the statement should be admitted but submitted that the prejudice to Lobban by allowing the whole statement to go before the jury outweighed the relevance of the disputed paragraph to Russell's defence.

He submitted that a judge was always entitled, in respect of evidence led by the prosecution, as a matter of discretion to choose the course that involved the lesser risk of injustice as between the two defendants, and in support he referred to four English decisions: *R v Rogers and Tarran* ([1971] Crim LR 413); *R v Silcott* ([1987] Crim LR 765); *R v Mathias* ([1989] Crim LR 64); *R v Jefferson* ([1994] 1 All ER 270). He submitted that the judge erred in failing to edit the statement because the injustice to Lobban in failing to edit was greater than any injustice to Russell if he had ordered editing.

Even if that legal submission was correct, it would have been impossible for the judge to say that the exclusion of the last paragraph would have caused less prejudice to Russell than its admission would have caused to Lobban's case. And, counsel's suggestion of the substitution of a letter of the alphabet for Lobban's name, if adopted by the judge, would probably have set the jury on an irresistible trail of speculation. The alternative challenge to the exercise of the judge's discretion was rejected.

However, on examination the English decisions relied upon did not yield substantial support for counsel's submission. Two principles were clearly established.

First, a trial judge in a criminal trial always had a discretion to refuse to admit evidence tendered by the prosecution if in his opinion its prejudicial effect outweighed its probative value. He could exclude evidence tendered by the prosecution in a joint trial probative of the case against one co-defendant, on the ground that it was unduly prejudicial against another co-defendant.

The second principle was lucidly summarised by *Keane, The Modern Law of Evidence* (3rd edition (1994) p36): "The discretion may only be exercised in relation to evidence tendered by the prosecution. There is no discretion to exclude, at the request of one co-accused, evidence tendered by another."

Their Lordships had concluded the discretion envisaged by counsel's submission, as deployed in a case such as the present, did not exist. The discretionary power to exclude relevant evidence applied only to evidence on which the prosecution proposed to rely.

It existed to ensure a fair trial to the defendant, or, in a joint trial, to each defendant without seeking to differentiate between the quality of justice afforded to each. It did not extend to the exculpatory part of a "mixed statement" on which a co-defendant wished to rely.

The prosecution was not entitled to rely on any part of Russell's statement against Lobban. Counsel for Russell was entitled to insist that the material favourable to him in a mixed statement, should not be made the subject of editing by the judge.

In so far as *Silcott* and *Mathias* suggested that a judge in a criminal trial had a discretionary power at the request of one defendant to exclude evidence tending to support the defence of another defendant they were contrary to well established principles and did not correctly reflect the law of England or of Jamaica.

The discretion envisaged by counsel would conflict with a defendant's absolute right, subject to considerations of relevance, to deploy his case asserting his innocence as he thought fit. Their Lordships rejected counsel's alternative legal submission.

There was a real risk of prejudice to co-defendants in joint trials where evidence was admitted which was admissible against one defendant but not against the others. One remedy was for a co-accused to apply for a separate trial.

The judge had a discretion to order a separate trial. The practice was generally to order joint trials. But ultimately the governing test was always the interests of justice in the particular circumstances of each case.

If a separate trial was not ordered, the interests of the implicated co-defendant had to be protected by the most explicit directions by the trial judge to the effect that the statement of one co-defendant was not evidence against the other. The judge had fulfilled that duty in the present case.

Their Lordships recommended that the appeal should be dismissed.

Solicitors: Simons Muirhead & Burton; Charles Russell.

Court of Appeal

Eviction protection not available

Mohamed v Manek and Another

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Henry and Lord Justice Auld

[Judgment March 30]

The provisions of the Protection from Eviction Act 1977 had no application to temporary housing arranged by local councils for homeless persons. An applicant claiming to be homeless and in priority need given bed and breakfast hotel accommodation while his housing authority carried out inquiries was not within the protection given by section 3.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments allowing an appeal by Kensington and Chelsea London Borough Council from the order of Judge Phelan in West London County Court on October 14, 1994, that had granted the applicant, Ezzeldin Amr Mohamed, an interlocutory injunction preventing the defendants, Mr V. Manek, the owner of the Thames Hotel, West Kensington, and the council from evicting him from his hotel room.

Section 3 of the 1977 Act, as amended by section 31 of the Housing Act 1988, provides: "(1) Where any premises have been let as a dwelling under a tenancy which is neither a statutorily protected tenancy nor an excluded tenancy and — (a) the tenancy ... has come to an end, but the occupier continues to reside in the premises or part of them, it shall not be lawful for the owner to enforce against the occupier, otherwise than by proceedings in the court, his right to recover possession of the premises. . ."

By section 3A(8), as inserted: "A tenancy or licence is excluded if it confers rights of occupation in a hostel, within the meaning of the Housing Act 1985, which is provided by — (a) the council of a ... London borough. . ."

Mr Timothy Straker for the council; Mr Terence Gallivan for the applicant; Mr Manek did not appear and was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE AULD said that the applicant had applied under section 65 of the Housing Act 1985 on October 3, 1994, for accommodation, claiming to be homeless and in priority need. While making inquiries under section 63 the council, pursuant to its duty under that section, arranged the hotel accommodation, making plain in writing to the applicant that his occupation was to be temporary and subject to stringent conditions.

By October 6 the council had completed its investigation, concluding that the applicant was homeless but not in priority need. It wrote to the applicant that "your temporary accommodation will be terminated on October 10". The applicant was not prepared to move and issued the proceedings in the county court.

The first question was whether the protection that the applicant sought against the council was that provided in section 3 of the 1977 Act. Stripping the immaterial from the provisions the issue was whether the council as "owner" by its conduct had sought to enforce against the applicant a right to recover possession of its hotel room.

Thus the applicant had to show that the council was the "owner" of the room as defined in section 8(3) of the Act, namely "the person who, as against the occupier, is entitled to possession thereof". Second, he had to show that the council had sought to evict him from it without court proceedings. Put another way, he had to establish that the council, through the medium of the hotel owner, was his licensor and his evictor.

That was not a proper analysis of the relationship between the council and the applicant. Any procurement of the hotel owner to grant a licence of the room to the applicant did not by some species of agency make the council the "owner" for the purposes of section 3(1) or the licensor for the purposes of section 3(2B) of the Act.

Nor did the notification that the applicant's "temporary accommodation would be terminated" amount to an attempt to enforce without proceedings a right to recover possession of the room. The council's conduct in terminating its arrangement for the applicant's stay at the hotel was not conduct covered by the words of section 3.

The other important issue canvassed was whether the hotel room was "premises occupied as a dwelling under a licence" so as to bring it within the protection of section 3.

Mr Gallivan argued that the applicant occupied the room as a dwelling because he lived in it as his residence and that that was the very purposes of the licence. "Dwelling", he said, has a core meaning whatever the context, namely premises in which a person lived for whatever length of time.

But the question here was not simply whether the hotel room was "occupied" by the applicant as his residence or dwelling but whether the council had licensed him to occupy it as a dwelling. Even if the agreement between the council and the applicant was a licence, it was tailored to the fulfilment by the council of its statutory duty to arrange temporary accommodation.

The 1977 Act was not intended to apply to the temporary housing by councils of the homeless. It was in the interests of good public administration that councils should not have to commit their limited resources to securing accommodation for persons to whom, after making due inquiries, they properly decided they had no duty, at the expense of others to whom they might have a duty. Nor did it accord with the ordinary use of language to describe temporary accommodation in a hotel or hostel as premises "occupied as a dwelling under a licence".

Lord Justice Nourse gave a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Henry agreed with both.

Solicitors: Mr A. G. Phillips, Kensington; Oliver O. Fisher & Co, Kensington.

Postponing election of remedy in copyright dispute

Island Records Ltd v Tring International plc and Another

Before Mr Justice Lightman

[Judgment April 12]

It was open to the court to develop a procedure which allowed a plaintiff seeking alternative remedies in an action for infringement of copyright to postpone election until such time as he had the wherewithal to make an informed choice.

Mr Justice Lightman so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division when granting to the plaintiff, Island Records Ltd, on its motion for judgment on the basis of admissions under Order 27, rule 3, or alternatively under Order 14 of the Rules of the Supreme Court seeking against the defendants, Tring International plc and The Long Island Music Co Ltd, inter alia, either an inquiry as to damages caused by or an account of profits earned upon the defendants' pleaded infringements, a declaration that the plaintiff was entitled at its election to an assessment of damages or an account of profits and directing (i) the defendants to furnish within two months an audited schedule detailing sums received or receivable by them in respect of their infringements, sales of infringing copies, the number of infringing copies unsold and costs incurred by the defendants in respect of manufacture, distribution and sale of infringing copies; (ii) the plaintiff to elect between its remedies within seven days of receipt of such schedule.

Mr Stephen Bate for the plaintiff; Mr Michael Silverleaf for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE LIGHTMAN said that the motion for judgment raised a novel question on election between remedies which could affect not merely copyright or patent infringement cases, but also those involving waiver of tort, the receipt of bribes by agents, summonses and motions for judgment generally, and split trial cases.

The question was whether a plaintiff could be forced to elect before he had the information, by means of discovery or otherwise, to make an informed election.

While it was true that there was no English authority which had adopted or even hinted at the adoption of a procedure in such cases which would allow a plaintiff, who had established the defendant's liability and his own right of election, to secure the wherewithal to make an informed election before committing himself to either remedy, it was open to the court to develop such a procedure and it was just and convenient so to do.

His Lordship referred to *Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing Co v C Jeffries* ([1993] FSR 189) a case in the Federal Court of Australia where such a procedure had been devised.

In his Lordship's view, the court could at the split trial or on any other application for judgment be invited to defer entry of judgment for damages or profits and either, as in the *Minnesota* case, make no order as to the remedy for infringement or, as his Lordship preferred, grant a declaration that the plaintiff was entitled at his election to judgment for either, then or thereafter giving directions which secured that such information as was available and was reasonably required to enable the plaintiff to make an informed election was made available to him and that the election was made within a reasonable time thereafter, bearing in mind that the plaintiff was not entitled to know exactly the amount of any damages or profits to which he was entitled, but only to such information as the court considered to be a fair basis in the circumstances of the case for an election.

Solicitors: Hamlin Slowe; Marriott Harrison.

Chancery Division procedure

Practice Direction (Chancery Division: Procedure and case management)

The provisions of the *Chancery Guide*, prepared by the judges of the Chancery Division with the assistance of others, were henceforth to apply to litigation in the Chancery Division.

Sir Richard Scott, Vice-Chancellor, so stated in the Chancery Division on April 25 in a practice direction concerning case management in the Chancery Division and the relationship between provisions of the *Chancery Guide* and practice directions issued by the court.

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR said that the provisions of the *Chancery Guide* were to apply to litigation in the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice.

In the case of any inconsistency between the provisions of the *Chancery Guide* and the provisions of any previous direction (including *Practice Direction (Civil litigation: Case management)* (*The Times* January 25; [1995] 1 WLR 262)), the provisions of the *Chancery Guide* were to prevail.

The provisions of the *Chancery Guide* were subject to any subsequent practice direction that might be made.

Note The *Chancery Guide* is obtainable from Room E01, Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London, WC2A 2LL at £3 a copy.

Application treated as transfer request

Regina v Lambeth London Borough Council, Ex parte Pattinson

An application for housing from a local authority's own tenant was presumptively to be treated as a request for transfer to more suitable accommodation under Part II of the Housing Act 1985.

Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so stated on April 7 when dismissing an application by Barbara Pattinson for judicial review of the refusal by the London Borough of Lambeth to make inquiries under section 62 of the Housing Act 1985 to satisfy itself whether she was homeless or threatened with homelessness and a decision of March 30, 1994 that she would not be made any further offers of accommodation.

HIS LORDSHIP said that while it was correct that an applicant for housing did not have to identify the route by which he sought to attain the status of an occupant of settled accommodation to be within either Part II or Part III of the Act, an "application" for housing from a local authority's own tenant was, in his Lordship's judgment, presumptively to be treated as a request for transfer to more suitable accommodation under Part II provisions.

The reverse presumption should be made where the applicant was from private sector housing with all the uncertainties and vagaries of continuous temporary accommodation.

Paragraph 3.2 of *Homelessness: Code of Guidance for Local Authorities* (3rd edition (1994)) proceeded on the assumption that help in obtaining accommodation would extend to public sector housing.

Oppressive conduct in police interview

Mohd Ali Bin Burut and Others v Public Prosecutor

For the police to interview an arrested person while he was manacled and hooded was plainly oppressive conduct calculated to sap the will of the person being interviewed, and written statements, which contained confessions, made by the appellants after being subjected to such treatment should not have been admitted in evidence at their trial.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council (Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, Lord Mustill, Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead and Lord Steyn) so held on April 25 in allowing an appeal by Mohd Ali Bin Burut, Ak Metassan Bin Pg Metussin and Madtassan Bin Lamat, from the dismissal by the Court of Appeal of Brunei Darussalam of their appeals against their convictions by the High Court of firearms offences under section 28 of the Public Order Act of Brunei.

LORD STEYN said that a so-called "special procedure" was applied to the appellants. It was a standard procedure in Brunei in cases involving suspicion of the commission of firearms offences and involved arrested persons being manacled with their hands behind their backs and hooded during interrogation.

The written statements were not obtained in interviews conducted while the appellants were subjected to the special procedure.

It was applied to the first appellant on December 15, 1990. On December 17 he signed a written statement and eight days later a statement confirming the first statement.

The special procedure was applied to the second appellant on December 15 and he signed detailed statements on December 18 and 26.

It was applied to the third appellant on December 16 and he made written statements on December 17 and 25.

In the gaps between the application of the special procedure and the signing of the written statements they were questioned by police officers and remained deprived of visits of relatives. Nothing had happened to remove the implied threat of further sessions subject to the special procedure.

Even without oral evidence from the appellants on the voire dire, the very nature of the special procedure, and the relatively short gaps between the application of it and the taking of the statements inferentially suggested that the statements were, or might have been, obtained by oppression.

Under section 117(2) of the Criminal Procedure Code of Brunei the burden of proving that the statements were voluntary rested on the prosecution, which had failed to prove, beyond reasonable doubt that they were not obtained by oppression.

The trial court should have ruled all the written statements inadmissible. It was impossible to sustain the convictions. Their Lordships recommended that the appeal should be allowed and the convictions quashed.

No warning needed for obvious danger

Staples v West Dorset District Council

No duty of care was imposed on a council as owners and occupiers of the Cobb at Lyme Regis to warn a visitor of the obvious danger of slipping on visible algae that collected on the stone surface of the High Wall. An experienced visitor walking along it, like countless predecessors, was well able to evaluate the danger and even if a warning notice had been displayed the probability was that he would not have been affected by it.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Kennedy and Lord Justice Evans) so stated on April 5, when allowing an appeal by West Dorset District Council from the decision of Mr Justice Auld in May 1994 that it was negligent and in breach of the common duty of care which it owed to the plaintiff, Mr Paul Alan Staples, in consequence of which he had slipped and injured himself. The judge's award of damages of £95,102, based on contributory negligence by the plaintiff of 40 per cent, was set aside.

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY said that the council had accepted that it owed the plaintiff the duty of care as defined in section 2(2) of the Occupiers Liability Act 1957. But before his accident the plaintiff saw the algae and knew that it might well be slippery.

The notice, posted by the council after the accident, warning users that the wall was slippery "particularly when wet" would not have told the plaintiff anything that he did not know. The plaintiff was a visitor who needed no warning and the judge had been wrong to find that liability was established.

Warning the jury about defendant's lies

Regina v Burge
Regina v Pegg

Before Lord Justice Kennedy, Mr Justice Curtis and Mr Justice Buxton

[Reasons March 14]

The warning as to how a jury should approach the question of lies told by a defendant, as set out in *R v Lucas* ([1981] QB 720, 724) was not required to be given in every case in which a defendant had given evidence, even if the jury might conclude that some of that evidence might have contained lies. The warning should only be given where there was a danger that the jury might regard their conclusion that the defendant had lied as probative of his guilt of the offence which they were considering.

The Court of Appeal so held when giving reasons for having dismissed on March 2, appeals of Sean Gary Burge and David Graham Reginald Pegg against their convictions on April 8, 1993 at Winchester Crown Court (Mr Justice Auld and a jury) of murder. Both appellants had pleaded guilty on March 24, 1993 to robbery.

Mr Patrick O'Connor, QC, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for Burge; Mr Michael Hubbard, QC and Mr David Bartlett, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for Pegg; Mr Roger Titheridge, QC and Mr Anthony Davies for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY, delivering the reserved reasons of the court, as there seemed to be at the moment a tendency in one appeal after another to assert that there had been no direction or an inadequate direction as to lies, it might be helpful if the court summarised the circumstances in which a *Lucas* direction was usually required:

1 Where the defence raised an alibi.

2 Where the judge considered it desirable or necessary to suggest that the jury should look for support or corroboration of one piece of evidence from other evidence in the case, and among that other evidence drew attention to lies told or allegedly told by the defendant.

3 Where the prosecution sought to show that something said either in or out of the court in relation to a separate and distinct issue was a lie, and to rely on that lie as evidence of guilt in relation to the charge which was sought to be proved.

4 Where although the prosecution had not adopted the approach to which their Lordships had just referred, the judge reasonably envisaged that there was a real danger that the jury might do so.

If a *Lucas* direction was given where it was not necessary, as in a normal case where there was a straight conflict of evidence, it would add complexity and do more harm than good.

In their Lordships' judgment a judge would be wise always, before speeches and summing up in category 4, and perhaps also in other circumstances, to consider with counsel whether in the instant case such a direction was in fact required, and if so how it should be formulated.

If the matter was dealt with in that way the Court of Appeal would be very slow to interfere with the exercise of the judge's discretion. Further, the judge should of course be assisted by counsel in identifying cases where a direction was called for.

In particular, the court was unlikely to be persuaded in cases allegedly falling under category 4 that there was a real danger that the jury would treat a particular lie as evidence of guilt if defence counsel at the trial had not alerted the judge to that danger and asked him to consider whether a direction should be given to meet the danger.

The direction should if given so far as possible be tailored to the circumstances of the case, but it would normally be sufficient if it made the two basic points: (i) that the lie must be admitted or proved beyond reasonable doubt, and (ii) that the mere fact that defendant had lied was not in itself evidence of guilt since defendants might lie for innocent reasons, so only if the jury were sure that the defendant did not lie for an innocent reason could a lie support the prosecution case.

The appeals would be dismissed.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Bournemouth.

Paying for hopeless applications

In re Thirugnanasampanther

Where the prospects of success for a renewed application for judicial review to the Court of Appeal were minimal, if not even nil, and the application had been refused after careful consideration and with cogent reasons by a judge, the Legal Aid Board should be asked to consider seriously whether such hopeless renewed applications ought to be the subject of public expenditure. The board would be provided with copies of the judgments of the judge and of the Court of Appeal to enable such consideration and the taxing master would also be so provided to view the matter of costs.

Lord Justice Butler-Sloss so stated on April 12 when agreeing with Lord Justice Hutchison and Lord Justice Morritt to dismiss the renewed application of Mrs Sivajini Thirugnanasampanther to move for judicial review of the refusal by the special adjudicator, on November 4, 1994, to grant her asylum as a refugee and of the refusal by the Immigration Appeal Tribunal on February 22, 1995 of her application for leave to appeal. On March 21, 1995 Mr Justice Sedley had refused her leave to move for judicial review.

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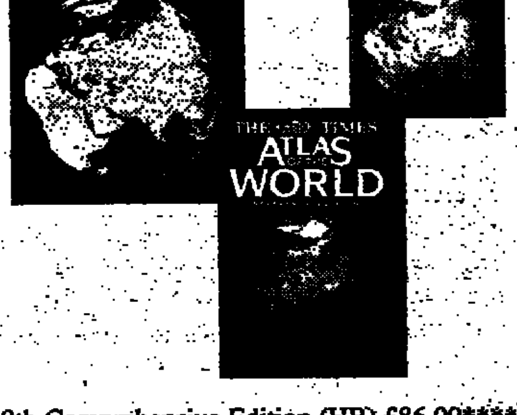

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هكذا من الاصل

Davis Cup test for Britain novices

Knight relies on untried pair to end run of failure

FROM STUART JONES, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN BRATISLAVA

BILLY KNIGHT has determined that the conclusion of his brief career as the captain of the Great Britain Davis Cup team will be nothing if not controversial. His last line-up features two raw 20-year-olds who will both make their singles debuts in the opening rubbers against Slovakia today.

Tim Henman and Miles Maclagan have been charged with the responsibility of ending a dismally elongated sequence of failure that began before they themselves were professionally engaged. When Britain last won, in September 1991, the nation was a distinguished member of the elite world group.

Five successive defeats later, albeit all but one of them on foreign soil, Britain has descended to group two of the Euro-African zone, otherwise known as the third division or third world of tennis. Nor, even more ignominious, is there necessarily only one direction in which to go.

Henman and Maclagan are akin to lambs being led to the slaughter. Their respective rankings, 217th and 285th in the world, would not provoke optimism even if they were competing on grass against Karol Kucera and Jan Kroslak, who are in turn rated 59th and 125th. But they are playing here on clay. Not only that. Persistent rain has slowed still further the surface in a stadium that may be filled to only half of its capacity of 2,000 spectators.

That Knight should have omitted Chris Wilkinson, 25, the Britain No 3, surprised his opposite number, Miloslav Mecir. That he should also have overlooked Danny Sapsford, 26, the No 4 and the most comfortable of home competitors on clay, raised even more eyebrows.

Singles

K Kucera (Slovakia) v T Henman (GB)

J Kroslak (Slovakia) v M Maclagan (GB)

Knight explained his "tough decision". Henman has benefited from his composure when partnering Jeremy Bates in the doubles to keep Britain in the last tie against Romania in July. He is promoted to lead the team. "I'm pleased he's in first," the captain said, "Because he did well in Manchester."

Maclagan has bridged a far wider gap. Excluded from the original selection though he was in Knight's thoughts, he is rewarded for winning three qualifying matches on clay to enter a challenger event in Monte Carlo ten days ago. He himself admitted that he was taken aback.

Henman, who starts this morning against Kroslak, broke an ankle in October and has not long completed his recovery. There was a blessing in disguise. The slender youngster put on much needed weight, three-quarters of a stone, during his rehabilitation. "Home cooking," his mother said knowingly at the team's hotel on the banks of the Danube.

The son she had not seen for six weeks expressed relief that he had at least gained a semblance of experience. "Manchester was a good opportunity to start my Davis Cup career. I suppose it helps that Miles and I have got clean sheets." Played nought, in other words, lost nought.

Henman carries an additional burden. In the doubles tomorrow he will be partnered by Neil Broad, a 28-year-old specialist making a comeback after being dropped in 1992. Although practice has been restricted to three days in Munich, where the group assembled, Knight's successor foresees no limit to the endurance of Britain's representatives.

David Lloyd describes Maclagan, born in Zimbabwe to Scottish parents, as "a bull and much fitter than guys much thinner — I can assure you that he and Tim can last for ten sets on a slow clay court". The youngsters will do well to stay in contention for that long.

Nevertheless, the future could lie in youthful hands. Lloyd confirmed that Bates, the nation's No 1, shows no indication that he will end his retirement from the competition and Mark Petchey, the No 2, "must have been hurt by his record" of eight successive defeats in singles rubbers.

Defeat here, a probability more than a possibility, would lead to another relegation play-off. A week after Wimbledon, Britain would play either Egypt or Monaco at Eastbourne to avoid dropping into group three. That incidentally, is where Slovakia were last year.

Becker finds touch to reach last eight

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

BORIS BECKER and Goran Ivanisevic demonstrated that serve-and-volley tennis can be effective on clay when they scored impressive victories in the third round of the Monte Carlo Open in Monaco yesterday. Becker, the No 2 seed, outclassed Alex Corretja, of Spain, 6-2, 6-2, while Ivanisevic overcame Marc Rosset, of Switzerland, 6-4, 6-3.

The Croat's serve was recorded at 123mph, the fastest average speed measured in a tournament on clay. However, Becker's overall performance was the more convincing, raising the possibility that he might at last win a tournament on the surface. Becker dismissed Corretja in barely an hour to earn a quarter-final berth against Richard Krajicek, of Holland, who proved too strong for the Spanish qualifier, Alex López-Morón, winning 6-4, 6-4.

Yevgeny Kafelnikov, of Russia, the No 3 seed, made a surprise exit at the hands of Andrea Gaudenzi, the No 14 seed. The Italian's 1-6, 7-5, 7-5 victory meant that Kafelnikov had failed to reach the last eight for the first time in 11 tournaments. The Russian has more wins to his credit than any other player on the circuit this year.

A ragged start to the great race as the 48 owners commit their plastic friends to the mercy of the stream. Photograph: James Meehan

Just ducky, bobbing along on the Liffey

FREUD ON FRIDAY

So John Butler became the world duck-racing champion for 1995. A Cambridge-based haulier who hails from Fifeshire. Butler's other passion is football; he played for — and still passionately supports — the team many Radio 5 listeners believe is called Raith Rovers nil.

A bright blustery morning on the River Liffey had levels down to 14 inches, winds gusting from the south-west to Force 6, which is not everyone's ideal water; nevertheless, Hilary Cload, from Warwick, who has been described as "the duck racer's duck racer" achieved second place.

Sean McManmon has been waterkeeper of the critical four-mile stretch of the Liffey for upwards of 16 years. The river rises at Manor Kilbridge in the Wicklow Mountains and meanders its way to Dublin Bay yielding several million gallons of Guinness a day as it goes.

The great race is run in the grounds of Kildare Hotel and Country Club: from the metal bridge north of the golf course to a finishing line determined by the judges. It is an ideal location. There are swans and badgers, six pairs of otters live in the riverbank by a rape field replete with hares from whom you hear the continuing sounds of daily exertion — or it may be hare-speak for "how was it for you?"

Downstream are salmon and brown trout waiting for the rising of mayfly drawn here by the silt. Mayfly attract fish that feed at no other time and when the lilac starts to blossom around May 15 and the flow of the river is right, this becomes a fisherman's paradise; a time when Mr Jack Charlton, who makes no secret of his priorities, ensures that Ireland's football team has a break from fixtures.

Dr Smurfitt, who owns this pleasure dome, has planted 20,000 hardwood trees whose trunks are coated with a foul-tasting emulsion to deter the grey squirrels from reaching the foliage and feeding on the eggs of woodpigeon and sparrowhawk, robin and wren, teal and widgeon.

This is a bird sanctuary: melanistic and Scotch pheasant strut the grounds as if this were a giant zebra crossing; mallards come by executing the dog paddle and while weather reports make mention of morning frost and overcast skies around the British Isles the sun shines its bright approval on the contest about to be staged here.

McManmon has been with the ducks since early morning, adjusting them to cope with the conditions, drilling beneath their tail feathers and injecting water to afford the gravitas required for stability in the swirling stream; wind against current creates whirlpools when in the best of all worlds wind and current provide fast shipping lanes. After an inspection the judges decide that the championship course should be short: two chains.

Shortly before 9am a motley selection of men and women are seen to emerge from the neo-Georgian facade of the hotel. These are the contestants. If breathalysed, few would pass the test for the previous evening was spent at a trattoria in Celbridge where Barolo flowed and even more alcoholic beverages were available in generous abundance. They are surprised to see so many of their colleagues in such good shape; there is nostalgic talk of the night before — who did what, sang which, flirted with whom.

Ducks are selected and given final instructions by their owners; the countdown begins: 5,4,3,2,1: 48 ducks hit the water and the banks are alive with the sounds of encouragement.

The organisation of acceptable corporate hospitality is an art form: agreeing to pick up a client's account at the Paris Ritz is beset with danger. The dispatch of fine wines and kilos of Beluga tend to be mistaken for bribery while the complimentary provision of women, boys or goats is an invitation for vilification by the tabloids.

But "come and join us for a party" is benign. Nobody can object to that ... and when Volvo Truck Finance GB invited 40 of its best customers to stay at the Kildare Hotel, visit the Irish National Stud, spend an afternoon at Punchestown on Gold Cup day, have dinner and compete for the world duck-racing title on Ireland's foremost waterway, there were few who could say no.

And shame on those who think that this is a contest in which luck plays a part. I myself competed, selected bird No 24, launched the beast into what I considered an especially favourable stretch of water, clear of bank and favourable of current. No 24 finished last.

When the gillie fished the winning bird from the water, John Butler, the new *número uno*, made a modest acceptance speech, in the course of which he mentioned the close rapport achieved between man and duck. It was a day he will not forget.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

Dealer North. North-South game

North: ♠Q982 ♥AQ4 ♦A103 ♣Q107

West: ♠A103 ♥76 ♦Q987 ♣9642

East: ♠— ♥K98532 ♦654 ♣J853

South: ♠KJ7654 ♥J10 ♦KJ2 ♣AK

W	N	E	S
—	1♣	2♥	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

Contract: Six Spades by South. Lead: Seven of hearts

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN
BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This hand comes from the 1995 Philip Morris Simultaneous Pairs. North-South were playing the French system where the 1 NT opening is 16-18 points and major-suit openings guarantee a five-card suit. North therefore had no choice but to open a prepared club. South's Four Clubs was a cue-bid and, after North had cue-bid both red-suit aces, South bid a slam.

West led the seven of hearts and South was faced with the possibility of losing a heart and the ace of trumps. South's only hope was to discard his losing heart on dummy's queen of clubs before drawing trumps.

To do this, South had also to locate the position of the queen of diamonds. He decided that because East had a long heart suit and because he needed East to hold three clubs, East was less likely to be long in diamonds; that meant West was favourite to hold the queen. South followed a hair-raising sequence of plays. He took the ace of hearts, cashed the ace-king of clubs and finessed the ten of diamonds. Then he cashed the queen of clubs, discarding a heart, and conceded the ace of trumps.

Pre-emptive action such as East's on the above hand is a two-edged sword. Certainly, you can create problems for the opposition in the auction but if they buy the hand your activity will provide a blueprint of the distribution.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge every day in the sports pages of *The Times*.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

BANESMAN
a. Defender at the Wall Game
b. A guarantor
c. A murderer

BONHAM
a. A sucking-pig
b. An auction by telephone
c. A toy boy

CONNIPTION
a. Conspiracy
b. A fit
c. A type of suspender.

FASCIOLA
a. Plasterwork
b. The Portuguese sardine
c. Grey matter

Answers: page 42

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Karpov sparkles

Anatoly Karpov, the FIDE champion, has consolidated his hold on the lead in the Seville international tournament. In round four he defeated the French Grandmaster Joel Lautier with a sparkling attack. Of particular note was Karpov's sacrificial 13 ... Bf3 which threw White's camp into confusion.

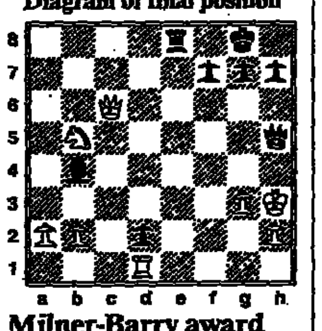
White: Joel Lautier
Black: Anatoly Karpov
Seville, April 1995

Catalan Opening

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	e6
3	g3	d5
4	Bg2	Be7
5	Nf3	0-0
6	0-0	dxc4
7	Nc3	Nc6
8	e3	Bd6
9	Nd2	e5
10	Nxc4	exd4
11	exd4	Bg4
12	Qb3	Nxd4
13	Qxb7	Bf3
14	Qa6	Bb4
15	Be3	Bxg2
16	Rfd1	c5
17	Bxd4	cxd4
18	Kxg2	Rc8
19	Kg1	Re8
20	Rac1	Qd7
21	Nb5	d3
22	Ne3	Rxc1
23	Rxc1	d2
24	Rd1	Nd5
25	Qa4	a6
26	Qxa6	Nxe3
27	bxe3	Qd3
28	Qc6	Qxe3+
29	Kg2	Qe2+
30	Kh3	Qh5+

White resigns

Diagram of final position



Milner-Barry award

City solicitors Watson, Farley & Williams have decided to honour the achievements of Sir Stuart Milner-Barry, one of Britain's top chessplayers in his day and *Times* chess correspondent from 1938 to 1945. Sir Stuart died last month.

Artist Barry Martin, captain of the Chelsea Arts club chess team has been commissioned to produce a trophy, featuring one of Sir Stuart Milner-Barry's most famous positions, which will be awarded annually to the most brilliant game played in the Oxford v Cambridge match.

Moscow Grand Prix

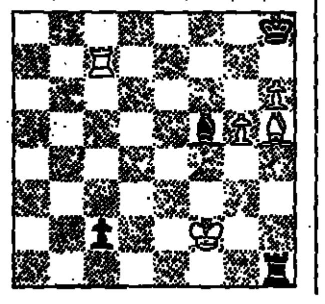
The speed chess grand prix in Moscow sees the top seeds as Vladimir Kramnik, Gary Kasparov, and Vassily Ivanchuk (all Russia), and Vishy Anand (India). Among the qualifiers is Jon Speelman, of Britain.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess every day in the sports pages of *The Times*.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Nunn - van der Wiel, Wijk aan Zee 1991. White's position looks hopeless as Black is threatening to promote his c-pawn and is also attacking the white bishop. How did White save the day with an ingenious trick?



Solution: page 42

FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Cincinnati 1 Chicago 7; Atlanta 12 San Francisco 5, Florida 2 Los Angeles 4; Colorado 11 New York 9; Pittsburgh 2 Montreal 6; St Louis 7 Philadelphia 6; San Diego 2 Houston 10
AMERICAN LEAGUE: Boston 9 Minnesota 0; New York 8 Texas 6; Milwaukee 12 Chicago 3; Kansas City 5 Baltimore 1; Toronto 13 Oakland 1; California 4 Detroit 5.

BOWLS

SYDNEY: Mazda International Jack High tournament: Group A: I Schuback (Aus) bt A Thomson (Eng) 9-7, 5-9, 9-8; S Glasson (Aus) bt D Shaw (Aus) 7-9, 9-7, 9-4. Schuback bt I McClure (Ire) 9-8, 9-2. Shaw bt Thomson 9-7, 9-4; Glasson bt McClure 9-3, 9-7 Group B: R Corsie (Scot) bt R Johnston (Aus) 3-6, 9-4; C Curtis (Aus) bt C Anderson (Norfolk Island) 8-9, 9-2, 9-0; Johnston bt N Burkett (SA) 9-8, 9-8; Curtis bt Corsie 9-5 9-8; Burkett bt Anderson 9-2 7-8 9-0.
DURBAN: Perm Atlantic Rim women's outdoor championships: Fifth round: Singles: V Stead (Jer) bt P Nolan (Ire) 25-14; J Peacock (SA) bt A de Abelle (Arg) 25-15; A Barber (US) bt P Fisher (Sp) 25-22, J Maxwell (Scot) bt N Shaw (Eng) 25-22; J Joubert (Nam) bt R Jones (Wales) 25-11, M Swerdlow (Isr) bt J Mantel (Guern) 25-23. Fours: Jersey (S Syvret) bt Ireland (J Mulholland) 26-14. Argentina (S de Cantarini) bt South Africa (C Gronden) 23-22, United States (M Wood) bt Spain (J Taylor) 24-19; Scotland (F Whyte) bt England (M Price) 23-15; Wales (B Morgan) bt Namibia (L King) 19-9. Israel (M Hirschowitz) bt Guernsey (S Paul) 24-15

CRICKET

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (final day of three). Leicester: Leicestershire 322-6 dec and 207-9 dec (Habib Khan 95 not out). Kent 301-8 dec (N J Llong 66, J B Thompson 67) and 112-2. Match drawn.
SCHOOLS MATCH: Shrewsbury 195-5 * Wrekin 155. * Home team

FOOTBALL

Wednesday's late results

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Group one: Azerbaijan 1 Romania 4 (Trabzon, Turkey). France 4 Slovakia 0 (Nantes). Group two: Denmark 1 Macedonia 0 (Copenhagen); Armenia 0 Spain 2 (Yerevan), Belgium 2 Cyprus 0 (Brussels). Group three: Hungary 1 Sweden 0 (Budapest); Switzerland 1 Turkey 2 (Berne). Group four: Estonia 0 Ukraine 1 (Tallinn); Lithuania 0 Italy 1 (Vilnius). Croatia 2 Slovenia 0 (Zagreb). Group five: Belorussia 1 Malta 1 (Minsk); Czech Republic 3 Holland 1 (Prague). Norway 5 Luxembourg 0 (Oslo). Group six: Latvia 0 Northern Ireland 1 (Riga); Ireland 1 Portugal 0 (Dublin). Austria 7 Liechtenstein 0 (Salzburg). Group seven: Germany 1 Wales 1 (Düsseldorf). Georgia 2 Albania 0 (Tbilisi). Moldova 0 Bulgaria 3 (Chisinau). Group eight: San Marino 0 Scotland 2. Greece 0 Russia 3 (Thessalonika). Faroe Islands 0 Finland 4 (Toftir)
ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE: Second division: Birmingham 2 Brentford 0
UNIBOND NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: First division: Caernarfon 1 Eastwood Town 2; Workington 0 Blyth Spartans 5
BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Cambridge City 1 Chelmsford 0. Sittingbourne 3 Rushden and Diamonds 1. Midland division: Forest Green 3 Ilkeston 3. Sutton Coldfield 0 Bedworth 0. Southern division: Fareham 1 Baldock 4. Tonbridge AFC 2 Waterlooville 1
DIADORA LEAGUE: Third division: Collier Row 3 Southall 0; Cove 1 Flackwell Heath 1
KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES: Ebbw Vale 2 Ton Pentre 3; Inter Cardiff 2 Barry 3, Afan Lido 2 Llanelli 1
PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Aston Villa 0 Coventry 1; Bolton 0 Blackburn 0; Everton 1 Wolverhampton 2; Leeds 0 Stoke 1; Nottm Forest 1 West Bromwich 1, Tranmere 3 Sunderland 1. Second division: Blackpool 0 Newcastle 1. Huddersfield 3 Burnley 4, Mansfield 0 Preston 6; York 2 Manchester City 0
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Charlton 2 Wimbledon 1. Oxford Utd 0 Crystal Palace 1. Southampton 1 Millwall 3. Swindon 0 Arsenal 0. Second division: Plymouth 0 Cardiff 1. Yeovil 1 Hereford 3. League cup: Cheltenham 2 Birmingham 0
CARLING NORTH WEST COUNTIES: First division: Holker Old Boys 2 Darwen 0
FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Guisborough 3 Ferryhill 1; Northallerton 2 Peterlee 0.
GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Tiverton 6 Paulton 0
HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Shortwood 1 Swindon Supermarine 0
INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Boldmere Swifts 5 Oldbury 0
LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: First division: Bridon Ropes 1 Cray Valley 1. Lewisham (Elms) 7 Beckton 0; Leyton County 10 Craven 1, Woolwich 1 Old Roan 1
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST: Premier division: Hallam 4 Pontefract Collieries 1. Stocksbridge PS 1 Belper Town 4.
OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Glyn 2 O Tenisonians 0; O Ignatians 1 O Meadonians 2
SKOL MIDLAND COMBINATION: First division: Monica Star 0 Dudley Sports 5.
UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Crowborough 1 Langney Sports 6. Pagham 0 Peacehaven and Telscombe 3; Wick 2 Ringmer 0
LIBERATORS CUP: Bolivar (Bol) 1 Palmeiras (Br) 0 (in La Paz); Independiente (Arg) 0 Velez Sarsfield (Arg) (in Buenos Aires). Caracas FC (Ven) 2 Sporting Cristal (Peru) 2 (in Caracas). Atletico Nacional (Col) 3 Penarol (Uru) 1 (in Medellin). Alianza (Peru) 1 Millonarios (Col) (in Lima); Emelec (Ecu) 2 Cerro Porteno (Para) (in Guayaquil)
BRAZILIAN LEAGUE: São Paulo championship: Novorizontino 0 Bragantino 0; Ponte Preta 1 Ferroviaria 0. Rio Branco 1 Portuguesa 1; São Paulo 1 America/Rio Preto 0. Uniao São Joao 2 XV de Piracicaba 1
INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: Lesotho 1 (Lekholla) South Africa 3 (in Maseru); Ivory Coast 4 Sierra Leone 0 (in Abidjan).
SCHOOLS MATCH: Snickers Trophy: Semi-final: Swindon College 3 Northgate HS (Suffolk) 3 (aet).

ICE HOCKEY

STOCKHOLM: World championship: Group B: Finland 5 Norway 2
NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Boston 1 Hartford 0, Buffalo 5 Florida 0. New Jersey 3 Pittsburgh 3 (OT). NY Rangers 6 Tampa Bay 4; Ottawa 5 Philadelphia 2; Quebec 1 Montreal 1 (OT). Toronto 5 Vancouver 2, Washington 6 NY Islanders 5. San Jose 5 Anaheim 2

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCHES: Cheltenham 15 Moseley 10, Penzance 13 Redruth 10; Surrey 63 Combined London OBs 17
TOUR MATCH: Northern Transvaal 52 Western Samoa XV 16 (in Johannesburg)

SPEEDWAY

PREMIER LEAGUE: Hull 51 Exeter 45, Long Eaton 42 King's Lynn 54; Poole 47 Reading 49

TABLE TENNIS

SINGAPORE: Commonwealth championships (selected results): Men: Third round: C Prean (Eng) bt P Jackson (NZ) 21-19, 21-19 21-13. A Cooke (Eng) bt Liu Yong Jiang (Can) 20-22, 21-7, 21-18, 21-19. Women: Second round: B Chui (Can) bt N Deaton (Eng) 21-11, 21-7, 21-17. Third round: L Lomas (Eng) bt M Ghosh (India) 21-6, 21-14, 21-16; A Holt (Eng) bt A Radika (India) 21-14, 21-11, 21-8, A Gordon (Eng) bt C Kwok (Aus) 22-20 21-18, 16-21, 21-12

TENNIS

MONACO: Men's tournament: Third round: G Ivanisevic (Cro) bt M Rosset (Swtz) 6-4, 6-3, B Becker (Ger) bt A Corretja (Sp) 6-2, 6-2. D Wheaton (US) bt P Haarhuis (Holl) 6-2, 6-7 6-4, R Krajicek (Holl) bt A Lopez-Moron (Sp) 6-4, 6-4, G Schaller (Austria) bt F Santoro (Fr) 6-3, 6-1
EDINBURGH: Satellite tournament: Men: First round: B Larkham (Aus) bt P Hand (GB) 6-7, 6-1, 6-4. T Hand (GB) bt M Boulding (GB) 6-4, 7-5; A Foster (GB) bt M Ingham (GB) 6-4, 6-4; A Belobrajdic (Aus) bt J Sekulov (Aus) 7-5, 4-6, 7-6. D Ward (GB) bt G Darlington (GB) 6-4, 6-4. A Richardson (GB) bt A Österreith (GB) 6-2, 6-0. G Henderson (GB) bt N Weal (GB) 6-4, 6-1. N Utgren (Swe) bt T Larkham (Aus) 7-6, 0-6, 6-3. N Baglin (GB) bt G Saffery (GB) 6-2, 7-5. B Curry (SA) bt T Spinks (GB) 6-3, 6-2. G Doyle (Australia) bt A Caspari (Ger) 6-0, 6-2. Second round: J Delgado (GB) bt Foster 6-2, 6-1. Women: Second round: J Lutrova (Russ) bt L Woodroffe (GB) 6-2, 6-1. O Barabanschikova (Belo) bt K Cross (GB) 6-3, 6-3. J Dawson (GB) bt R Mawdsley (Aus) 7-6, 6-4, F Jagenal (Fr) bt A Wainwright (GB) 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.
SEOUL: Men's tournament: First round: A Volkov (Russ) bt A Jarryd (Swe) 4-6, 7-5, 2-0 ret. M Ondruska (Russ) bt N Pereira (Ven) 6-2, 4-6, 6-3. L Hyeong-Taik (S Kor) bt Yoon Yong-Il (S Kor) 7-6, 6-3. G Rusedski (Can) bt M Joyce (US) 7-6, 1-6, 6-3. L Herrera (Mex) bt J Stark (US) 6-4, 7-6; K Carlsen (Den) bt M Petchey (GB) 5-7, 6-4, 6-1. T Ho (US) bt S Matsuoka (Japan) 7-6, 6-1. A Radulescu (Ger) bt S Lareau (Can) 6-3, 6-7, 6-1. J Tarango (US) bt L Paes (India) 6-3, 6-1; A Mronz (Ger) bt C Arriens (Ger) 3-2 ret. E Couto (Por) bt F Montana (US) 7-6, 6-7, 6-3. Bing Pan (China) bt J Bates (GB) 6-1, 2-0 ret. G Pozzi (It) bt W Masur (Aus) 6-4, 7-5. P Wekesa (Ken) bt J Weinzierl (Ger) 6-3, 7-6. L Rehmann (Ger) bt Chang Eui-Jong (S Kor) 6-3, 6-1. M Damm (Cz) bt G Stafford (SA) 6-3, 5-7, 7-6. Second round: Volkov bt Ondruska 5-7, 6-3, 6-3. Rusedski bt Hyeong-Taik 6-4, 6-4. Carlsen bt Herrera 6-3, 7-5. Ho bt A Radulescu 2-6, 6-3, 6-2
BARCELONA: Women's tournament. Second round: R Dragomir (Rom) bt M Antonia Sanchez Lorenzo (Sp) ret. 6-1, 7-6. K Nowak (Pol) bt J Halard (Fr) 6-1, 2-6, 6-3. A Grossman (US) bt V Ruano (Sp) 6-1, 6-2
DAVIS CUP: Euro/African zone: Group three: Group A. Cyprus 3 Congo 0. Kenya 3 Ethiopia 0. Group B: Algeria 3 Sudan 0. Turkey 2 Senegal 1

TODAY'S FIXTURES

CRICKET

11 0, second day of four

Britannic Assurance County Championship
DERBY: Derbyshire v Sussex
STOCKTON: Durham v Hampshire
CHELMSFORD: Essex v Leicestershire
CANTERBURY: Kent v Northamptonshire
TAUNTON: Somerset v Glamorgan
THE OVAL: Surrey v Gloucestershire
EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Middlesex

University matches

11 0, second day of three

FENNER'S: Cambridge University v Nottinghamshire

11 30, second day of three

THE PARKS: Oxford University v Worcestershire

Other match

11 30, second day of four

HEADINGLEY: Yorkshire v Lancashire

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Brighton v Millwall (7 15). Wimbledon v Tottenham (2 0); Watford v Oxford Utd (2 0)
CARLING NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Rossendale v Burscough
JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Watton v Fakenham.
UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Whitehawk v Ringmer.
SCHOOLS MATCHES: Victory Shield under-15 international: England v Scotland (at Newcastle FC, 7.15). English Schools Snickers Trophy: Under-18: Semi-final: Mount St Marys, West Yorkshire v Cardinal Heenan, Merseyside (at Farsley Celtic FC, 7.0).

OTHER SPORT

SNOOKER: Embassy world championship (Crucible Theatre, Sheffield).
SPEEDWAY (7 30 unless stated): Premier League: Arena Essex v Glasgow (8 0). Belle Vue v Middlesbrough. Edinburgh v Cradley Heath (7 15); Oxford v Coventry. (7.45): Peterborough v Bradford.
TENNIS: Men's and women's satellite tournament (Edinburgh).

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Bickerton and Lee stage show to savour

FROM MEL WEBB IN PARIS

IF THINGS had gone as they had been written, the Tournoi Perrier de Paris at St Cloud yesterday would have featured the two big-name partnerships in the field. Instead, they found themselves being put in the shade by two golfers who would be flattered to be described as little-known.

In the opening four-ball round of this pairs competition, Severiano Ballesteros and José Maria Olazábal had a 63, seven under par, one shot better than Ian Woosnam and Colin Montgomerie, but neither score was anywhere near good enough to match the heady stuff produced by John Bickerton and Daren Lee.

Bickerton and Lee sound like something out of provincial music hall, the sort of old-time troupers who hawked their song-and-dance act around outposts of British vaudeville.

However, there was nothing remotely comic about their deeds on the golf course. They had a 59, a score that would have had the statisticians scurrying for their record books were it not for the format of the only pairs competition on the PGA European Tour.

SCORES

FIRST ROUND (four-ball, GB and Ire unless stated): 59: J Bickerton and D Lee. 61: F Cupillard and F Tarnaud (Fr). 62: A Cejka and H Thul (Ger), P Fulke and M Gronberg (Swe), R Boxall and D Cooper, J Robson and S Watson. 63: E O'Connell and P Walton, P Broadhurst and R McFarlane, R Claydon and P Eales, S Ballesteros and J M Olazábal (Sp), D Robertson and C Ronald, S Cage and I Pyman, O Edmond and B Tellería (Fr), D Clarke and P McGinley, R Burns and C Mason, M Mackenzie and D Ray

Whether walking the fairways or treading the boards, the secret of success is timing, and Bickerton and Lee had their lines off pat. Of their 11 birdies, Bickerton got six and Lee five. Not unnaturally, they had a job to keep a smile off their faces, and it was not long before they stopped trying.

"We decided to come here and enjoy ourselves," Bickerton said. "We didn't really expect to do this well, but it's a very nice feeling."

After his experiences in recent times, Lee, 30, deserves a nice feeling or two. He has been ill for much of the past eight years, suffering from the debilitating condition that is variously known, according to the newspaper being read at the time, as yuppie flu (tabloid), ME (tabloid with broadsheet pretensions) or myalgic encephalomyelitis (the remaining handful).

Lee contracted the disease in 1987 and still had it when he won the silver medal for being the leading amateur in the Open Championship in 1992. He turned professional immediately afterwards and, even now, has to pace himself carefully.

A slimline waif of a man, he may not conform to the conventional image of the highly tuned professional athlete, but he was quite fit enough to roll in five birdie putts that varied from eight feet on the 6th, their 15th, and a monster of fully 60 feet on the 9th.

Bickerton, five years Lee's junior, was also bringing the house down. After three early birdies by his partner, he hit a 60-yard sand-wedge stroke to two inches on the 16th and holed another putt from 20 feet on the next.

That took them to the turn in 30. They had intended to enjoy themselves, and had, but not even they can have expected as much fun as they had on the back nine, which they covered in 29. Bickerton birdied the 1st, the 3rd and the 4th, Lee the 6th, Bickerton got back in the act on the 8th, and the pair finished their routine with Lee's big number at the last.

Late in the day, there was more entertainment on the 6th, a par three of 153 yards, where Richard Boxall had a hole in one with a seven-iron, his second ace on the Tour. "What do I get for that?" he said. The answer, sadly for the personable Boxall, was nothing more rewarding than smiles and a few handshakes.

He and Derrick Cooper, his partner, finished with a 62, a score that put them in joint third place with Alexander Cejka and Heinz-Peter Thul, Matthias Gronberg and Pierre Fulke, and Job Robson and Scott Watson. Frederic Cupillard and Fabrice Tarnaud were second, two shots behind the leaders.

Boxall and Cooper are not a combination to be trifled with. To win the charmingly old-fashioned Sunningdale Foursomes once, as they did in 1992, could perhaps be regarded as lucky. To win it again, as they did last month, marks them as a pair to be watched.

Hanley's future likely to lie in Australia

Christopher Irvine

believes that Great Britain will soon be seeking a new coach

Just as Ellery Hanley was singing like a bird, he is poised to fly the nest. A new life under the wing of the Australian Rugby League (ARL) beckons for the player-coach of Leeds, who is a highly-prized pawn in the skirmishing for control of the sport.

Hanley's lips remain sealed on that particular subject. There is, though, a resignation at the Rugby Football League and Headingley that the battle to keep him has probably been lost. If he goes — and the offer for his services is rumoured to be worth £750,000 — he will be the second Great Britain coach to depart for Australia in the space of eight months.

Should he decide to follow his predecessor, Malcolm Reilly, into exile, then tomorrow's Silk Cut Challenge Cup final at Wembley provides a fitting opportunity for him to take his leave of the English game he has both enriched and infuriated since 1978.

The past season has been as eventful for him as any of the 16 that have gone before. There was the sudden elevation to Great Britain coach and the win with 12 men over Australia at Wembley last October, "which surpassed anything I've experienced in the game". Australia, it is true, fought back to take the series 2-1 but Hanley, as a player, called upon all his mastery, guile and finishing precision to make it a vintage season, even by his standards.

At Warrington, three weeks ago, he set a world try-scoring record in a season for a forward. Try No 41 looked easy. There he was at the shoulder of Kevin Iro to flop over. But the score came after he had slipped his markers, run 70 yards and read the course of the attack to perfection. As every Leeds player knows, if you are looking for a safe pair of hands, the captain will be there.

"Perhaps, a few years down the line, I'll look in the scrapbooks and take satisfaction in what I've achieved," Hanley said yesterday. "But records don't bother me. Winning is the most important factor. Even as an amateur, if we'd won, my mind was on winning the next one. It's all that has ever mattered to me."

Hanley has been hinting of retirement for a year now, without ever suggesting an exact date. Australia will offer him some playing opportunities but his main duties will be on the coaching side in a country which he admires and in which he is admired. The Australian attitude tallies with Hanley's own.

Alan Tait, the Leeds full back, ascribed last year's Wembley defeat to a disrupted build-up caused by a hamstring injury to Hanley. So the chaos induced by the Anglo-Australia bidding war for Leeds and Wigan players involved in the final can only be guessed at. Yet the man at the centre of it all remains a model of calm.

"The next match is always the most important one," he said. "A lot of the sides I've played in with Leeds, when it came down to the wire, have faltered. They've not had the character, the nerve to go 80 minutes. I wouldn't say we've reached the summit, but mentally we're much stronger.

"The league match at Warrington was important. It was our third in six days, and whereas a lot of people probably thought we'd just turn up and not bother, I was delighted at the character of our defensive commitment. The attitude was spot on. Players wanted to play and, above all, they wanted to win." At Headingley, Hanley, the one-time rebel about to turn his back on the Super League to support the establishment cause, has become almost a father-figure.

"But youngsters like Graham Holroyd, Francis Cummins and Marcus Vassilakopoulos will also come up and point out things I've done wrong," he said.

"In the semi-final against Featherstone, 'Vass' said afterwards he was inside me for the pass and a try. He was there on the video, but I had gone for the corner and missed."

It is a rich legacy that the "Black Pearl" will pass on.

STUART FRANKLIN

Inspiring, sometimes infuriating, Hanley will be a serious loss to the British game

Germany pin hopes of revival on Rösler

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

IT IS not time, yet, to give Germany, the former world champions and purveyors of grindingly efficient football, the last rites. Though they could only draw 1-1 with Wales in Düsseldorf on Wednesday, they will still qualify for the finals of the European championship in England next year. As usual, nobody will relish playing them.

However, Berti Vogts, the Germany coach, is already aware of the need for haste. His rebuilding programme, since defeat against Bulgaria in the World Cup quarter-finals last summer, has not gone well. Standards in Germany, in any profession and at any level, are high, expectations must be fulfilled and thus Vogts will travel to Maine Road tomorrow to watch Uwe Rösler, the Manchester City striker, in the FA Carling Premiership match against Newcastle United. It is not a panic measure, but fresh options must be explored in the wake of Germany's surprising inability to break down a resilient Wales defence on Wednesday night. Heiko Herrlich's 41st-minute goal, from a host of chances, was not good enough.

The German supporters in the elegant Rheinstadion constantly reminded Vogts of their impatience and displeasure. They jeered when his name was read out over the public address system before kick-off, slumped into silence when Dean Saunders gave Wales a seventh-minute lead and then, when it was over, vented their anger with a barrage of whistles.

Hence Vogts's pursuit of Rösler, 26, the former East Germany and Dynamo Dresden forward who joined City, initially on loan, from Nuremberg last season and scored five goals in 12 Premiership outings. He signed for £750,000 during the summer and, despite missing two months with an ankle injury, has scored 21 goals in 36 appearances.

Vogts has pencilled him in to play in a testimonial match in honour of Guido Buchwald, the former Germany defender, towards the end of next month. Should he impress, he could make his international bow for the united Germany in the game against Bulgaria, the Group 7 leaders, in Sofia on June 7.

It would be useful, though, for Rösler to first pass the test at Maine Road. "I have decided to pick Uwe for Guido's game to see how good he is," Vogts said. "He is the next striker in line for our attack and he could be a player for our future. Of course, there is only one way to find out ..." Vogts, without all the hassle and heckling of home, should have a pleasant and informative afternoon in Manchester tomorrow.

☐ Wales have been invited to play the United States, at a venue on the East Coast yet to be decided, on May 28.

Rösler: under scrutiny

Irish effort will prove key

BY PETER BALL

FROM the day the European championship qualifying draw was made, group six looked like being one of the most straightforward. So it is proving. Ireland's win over Portugal in Dublin on Wednesday makes their qualification for the finals in England next summer look almost inevitable.

If it is not a certainty now, it surely will be before the players go off on their summer holidays. By then, Ireland will have visited Liechtenstein and entertained Austria.

Although Northern Ireland kept their hopes alives with their win in Latvia, they are still very much outsiders. Both the Irish teams have still to visit Lisbon, which should ensure that the young, vibrant Portugal team can regard defeat on Wednesday as part of their footballing education. "I believe that defeat will be the mother of a victory," Antonio Oliveira, the Portugal manager, said enigmatically.

It was a telling lesson for them. Charlton had insisted that his side needed to rediscover its basic virtues, and it did so with exhilarating results. Quinn's height and his not inconsiderable touch seriously disturbed the equanimity of the Portugal defenders. In midfield, the delightful touches of Sousa, Figo and Rui Costa were countered and then overpowered by Houghton, Townsend, Staunton and even Sheridan.

But Ireland played, too, Sheridan, Staunton and the full backs hitting searching passes. Babb came forward purposefully, creating one of the best chances of the evening when he found Quinn and then overlapped in support.

The basis of victory, however, was sheer physical effort. Aldridge and Houghton, the recalled veterans, ran and ran. It was a formidable performance.

"You call them the old brigade, but with their enthusiasm for the game and the way they are prepared to work and chase, they'll do for me," Charlton said. "I don't care if they are 40 as long as they can perform like that."

But can they? In the short term, almost certainly. It is hard to see Austria surviving where Portugal, more talented and less fragile, could not. Further ahead, doubts arise. On that performance, Ireland will be one of the favourites.

"Providing we can maintain those standards, who knows?" Jim Beglin, the former Liverpool and Ireland full back, wrote in his Irish newspaper column yesterday morning. "Maybe Jack Charlton can end his reign with a trophy."

Charlton's desire to win in England cannot be doubted. But it remains to be seen whether Ireland can repeat that intensity of effort five times in three weeks in the height of summer — even if London or Manchester is not quite the same as Florida.

Hurlock crosses new disciplinary frontier

TERRY HURLOCK made football history yesterday when he was fined £400 and given a four-match ban after becoming the first player to register 61 points in the 21-year history of the disciplinary system.

It means Fulham's former England B midfield player will have been suspended for 15 matches this season and his total financial punishment is £1,000. "This is the first time a player has gone beyond 51 points," an FA spokesman said.

Hurlock, who has also played for Millwall, Glasgow Rangers and Southampton, received regulation treatment up to 31 points. He was then banned for four games and fined £250 at 41 points, and at 51 he was suspended for two matches and fined £350. Now he will not play again this season — and part of his suspension will be held over to the start of the next campaign.

David Burrows, of Coventry City, headed a trio of players on 41 points and was handed a one-match ban that will keep him out of the FA Carling Premiership match against Manchester United on Monday. He also received a £1,000 fine.

Leyton Orient yesterday appointed Pat Holland, their former player, as their new manager. He takes over at the Endsleigh Insurance League second division club on a three-year contract from his position as youth team coach at Tottenham.

Barry Hearn, the new Orient chairman, was quick to thank his Tottenham counterpart, Alan Sugar, for agreeing to release 44-year-old Holland from his duties at White Hart Lane.

"I would like to state publicly my gratitude to Alan Sugar. Pat had two years remaining on his contract and Alan clearly did not want to lose him," Hearn said.

Champion Haining makes light of title row

BY MIKE ROSEWELL

PETER HAINING retained his Wingfield sculls title on the Thames yesterday. The Scotsman, with a pre-race weight of 10st 13lb, exhibited his two fabled characteristics: a remarkable side-by-side racing instinct and an inability to steer the course from Putney to Mortlake. Haining led from the start, and after one minute was inches ahead, sandwiched between Wade Hall-Craggs, the 1993 winner, on Middlesex, with Guy Pooley, the 1991 and 1992 champion, on Surrey. Sam Allpass, the outsider, was already trailing.

Haining's steering from Putney took him first too far to Middlesex, forcing Hall-Craggs over in the process. After Fulham, he veered to Surrey, directly ahead of Pooley, but the champion had clear water, just, over both at the mile mark.

Pooley's race plan of "a big push from the mile to Hammersmith" was cancelled out by rolling waves produced by an on-coming cruiser, but it did give him a clear second place over Hall-Craggs.

Classic "cat and mouse" tactics prevailed between Hammersmith and Barnes: Pooley repeatedly edged up, but Haining, invariably directly ahead of his opponent, immediately responded.

Both preferred Middlesex courses, so much so that passing the Bandstand, Hall-Craggs — using the tide — noticeably closed. An increase in tempo before Barnes Bridge by Haining — who questioned whether he was the lightest winner — finished the issue, though Pooley ended only two lengths down.

Results, page 38

CRICKET SCOREBOARDS

Britannic Assurance county championship

Derbyshire v Sussex

DERBY (first day of four: Derbyshire won toss): Derbyshire, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 152 runs ahead of Sussex.

SUSSEX: First Innings

N J Lenham c O'Gorman b Malcolm	45
C W J Athey c Cullinan b Cork	0
J W Hall b Malcolm	0
*A P Wells c Krikken b Cork	10
K Greenfield c Krikken b Malcolm	7
†P Moores c Krikken b Malcolm	0
F D Stephenson c Krikken b Malcolm	19
C C Remy c Rollins b Warner	4
I D K Salisbury c Adams b Malcolm	4
P W Jarvis not out	4
E S H Giddins lbw b Warner	5
Extras (lb 8, w 1, nb 4)	13
Total (38.4 overs)	111

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-9, 3-34, 4-65, 5-65, 6-74, 7-80, 8-99, 9-104.

BOWLING: Malcolm 16-2-61-6; Cork 9-4-12-2; DeFreitas 5-2-13-0; Warner 8.4-1-17-2.

DERBYSHIRE: First Innings

*K J Barnett not out	153
A S Rollins c Greenfield b Giddins	52
C J Adams not out	34
Extras (b 5, lb 15, nb 4)	24
Total (1 wkt, 68 overs)	263

D J Cullinan, T J G O'Gorman, D G Cork, P A J DeFreitas, C M Wells, A E Warner, †K M Krikken and D E Malcolm to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-189.

BOWLING: Stephenson 14-0-62-0; Jarvis 2.3-0-11-0; Remy 4.3-1-23-0; Giddins 23-0-94-1; Salisbury 24-10-53-0

Bonus Points: Derbyshire 6 Sussex 0

Umpires: P Willey and K E Palmer

Durham v Hampshire

STOCKTON (first day of four: Durham won toss): Hampshire, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are 51 runs behind Durham.

DURHAM: First Innings

*M A Roseberry c Terry b Bovill	19
W Larkins lbw b Bovill	47
J E Morris c Udal b Bovill	4
J A Daley c Aymes b Bovill	25
M Prabhakar b Stephenson	7
M Saxelby c Terry b Streak	4
†C W Scott run out	20
J Wood c Aymes b Connor	2
J Boiling not out	14
S J E Brown c White b Bovill	0
M M Betts c Smith b Bovill	8
Extras (b 1, lb 7, w 5, nb 14)	27
Total (81.2 overs)	177

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-76, 2-80, 3-81, 4-92, 5-101, 6-131, 7-143, 8-143, 9-147.

BOWLING: Connor 15-3-39-1; Streak 15-4-45-1; Bovill 15.2-8-39-6; Udal 7-3-19-0; Stephenson 9-2-27-1.

HAMPSHIRE: First Innings

J P Stephenson lbw b Prabhakar	8
V P Terry lbw b Brown	11
R S M Morris lbw b Wood	10
R A Smith c Saxelby b Wood	12
*M C J Nicholas lbw b Betts	15
G W White lbw b Prabhakar	16
†A N Aymes lbw b Prabhakar	0
S D Udal not out	17
H H Streak not out	0
Extras (lb 14, nb 23)	37
Total (7 wkts, 45 overs)	126

C A Connor and J N B Bovill to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-17, 2-25, 3-46, 4-51, 5-89, 6-102, 7-113.

BOWLING: Brown 17-5-35-1; Prabhakar 15-7-24-3; Wood 7-1-21-2; Betts 6-2-32-1.

Bonus Points: Durham 3 Hampshire 4

Umpires: B Dudleston and A G T Whitehead.

Essex v Leicestershire

CHELMSFORD (first day of four: Essex won toss): Essex, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 103 runs behind Leicestershire.

LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings

T J Boon c Rollins b Williams	5
*N E Briers c Rollins b Williams	114
W J Cronje c Rollins b Williams	34
J J Whitaker b Ilott	14
P E Robinson c Gooch b Ilott	0
V J Wells c Rollins b Williams	0
G J Parsons lbw b Ilott	7
†P Whitticase b Ilott	22
A R K Pierson b Cousins	26
D J Millns c Rollins b Williams	7
A D Mullally not out	2
Extras (lb 4, nb 18)	22
Total (61.3 overs)	253

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-71, 3-90, 4-90, 5-91, 6-98, 7-136, 8-236, 9-254.

BOWLING: Ilott 23-2-78-4; Williams 18.3-3-93-5; Irani 6-0-38-0; Cousins 8-0-26-1; Such 6-1-14-0

ESSEX: First Innings

G A Gooch not out	80
*P J Prichard c Millns b Cronje	63
J J B Lewis run out	2
D M Cousins not out	3
Extras (lb 2)	2
Total (2 wkts, 48 overs)	150

N Hussain, D D J Robinson, R C Irani, †R J Rollins, M C Ilott, N F Williams and P M Such to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-138, 2-146.

BOWLING: Millns 10-1-45-0; Mullally 15-2-45-0; Parsons 11-4-21-0, Wells 7-1-22-0; Cronje 5-0-15-1.

Bonus Points: Essex 4 Leicestershire 2

Umpires: D J Constant and M J Kitchen.

Kent v Northamptonshire

CANTERBURY (first day of four: Northamptonshire won toss): Northamptonshire have scored 341 for five wickets against Kent.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: First Innings

R R Montgomerie not out	113
A Fordham b Ealham	36
R J Bailey c Marsh b McCague	3
M B Loye c Patel b McCague	3
*A J Lamb b Ealham	54
K M Curran c Walker b Ealham	11
D J Capel not out	85
Extras (b 10, lb 6, w 10, nb 12)	38
Total (5 wkts, 110 overs)	343

†D Ripley, A Kumble, J G Hughes and J P Taylor to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-62, 2-80, 3-86, 4-156, 5-172.

BOWLING: McCague 21-2-95-2; Headley 25-6-75-0, Fleming 15-5-43-0; Ealham 20-8-50-3; Patel 29-5-64-0.

KENT: *M R Benson, T R Ward, M J Walker, P A De Silva, N R Taylor, M A Ealham, M V Fleming, S A Marsh, M M Patel, D W Headley, M McCague.

Bonus Points: Kent 2 Northamptonshire 3

Umpires: V A Holder and B Leadbeater.

Somerset v Glamorgan

TAUNTON (first day of four: Somerset won toss). Somerset have scored 247 for eight wickets against Glamorgan.

SOMERSET: First Innings

M N Lathwell run out	21
M E Trescothick c Metson b Thomas	0
P D Bowler lbw b Watkin	10
R J Harden not out	101
*A N Hayhurst c and b Croft	24
†R J Turner b Kendrick	20
G D Rose c Metson b Thomas	18
Mushtaq Ahmed c Metson b Dale	4
A R Caddick lbw b Watkin	31
H R J Trump not out	1
Extras (b 4, lb 4, w 9)	17
Total (8 wkts, 113 overs)	247

A P van Troost to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-28, 3-43, 4-89, 5-134, 6-166, 7-171, 8-246.

BOWLING: Watkin 25-6-44-2; Thomas 22-5-79-2; Lefebvre 22-7-36-0; Dale 16-5-37-1; Croft 21-13-26-1; Kendrick 7-3-17-1.

GLAMORGAN: S P James, A Dale, D L Hemp, *M P Maynard, A A Cottey, R D B Croft, N M Kendrick, R P Lefebvre, S D Thomas, †C P Metson, S L Watkin.

Bonus Points: Somerset 1 Glamorgan 3

Umpires: T E Jesty and R A White

Surrey v Gloucestershire

THE OVAL (first day of four: Gloucestershire won toss): Surrey, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 375 runs behind Gloucestershire

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: First Innings

A J Wright lbw b Benjamin	0
G D Hodgson c Nadeem Shahid b Kenlock	32
*M A Lynch c Kenlock b Hollioake	46
R I Dawson hit wicket b Benjamin	51
M W Alleyne c Stewart b Benjamin	161
A Symonds not out	1
R C Russell lbw b Benjamin	16
J Srinath run out	18
M C J Ball b Hollioake	32
K E Cooper b Kenlock	0
A M Smith c Butcher b Nowell	[illegible]
Extras (lb 7, nb 6)	13
Total (100 overs)	392

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-69, 3-85, 4-157, 5-166, 6-184, 7-278, 8-318, 9-371.

BOWLING: M P Bicknell 6.3-3-17-0; Benjamin 24-5-77-4; Kenlock 26-3-105-2; Nowell 19-5-73-1; Hollioake 19-3-84-2; Nadeem Shahid 5-0-29-0.

SURREY: First Innings

D J Bicknell not out	6
*A J Stewart not out	11
Total (no wkt, 7 overs)	17

M A Butcher, A D Brown, A J Hollioake, Nadeem Shahid, †G J Kersey, M P Bicknell, R W Nowell, S G Kenlock and J E Benjamin to bat.

BOWLING: Srinath 4-1-12-0; Smith 2-0-5-0; Ball 1-1-0-0.

Bonus Points: Surrey 4 Gloucestershire 4

Umpires: B J Meyer and J C Balderstone

Warwickshire v Middlesex

EDGBASTON (first day of four: Middlesex won toss): Middlesex, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 268 runs behind Warwickshire

WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings

A J Moles c Carr b Nash	31
N V Knight c Pooley b Tufnell	65
R G Twose c Carr b Tufnell	66
D P Ostler c Carr b Emburey	57
T L Penney lbw b Follett	3
*D A Reeve c Weekes b Tufnell	7
†M Burns c Carr b Emburey	1
N M K Smith c Pooley b Tufnell	4
R P Davis c Carr b Emburey	13
A A Donald c Carr b Emburey	3
G C Small not out	6
Extras (lb 7, nb 2)	9
Total (103.1 overs)	282

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-58, 2-184, 3-185, 4-188, 5-209, 6-219, 7-224, 8-258, 9-273

BOWLING: Fraser 17-6-49-0; Nash 12-0-60-1; Follett 17-4-61-1; Emburey 20.1-9-31-4; Tufnell 31.3-13-55-4; Weekes 5.3-2-19-0.

MIDDLESEX: First Innings

*M W Gatting not out	8
J C Pooley not out	4
Extras (nb 2)	2
Total (no wkt, 4 overs)	14

M R Ramprakash, J D Carr, P N Weekes, †K R Brown, J E Emburey, D J Nash, A R C Fraser, P C R Tufnell and D J Follett to bat.

BOWLING: Donald 2-0-8-0; Small 2-0-6-0

Bonus Points: Warwickshire 2 Middlesex 4

Umpires: G I Burgess and J H Hampshire.

University v matches

Cambridge University v Nottinghamshire

FENNER'S (first day of three; Nottinghamshire won toss): Cambridge University, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 402 runs behind Nottinghamshire

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: First Innings

M P Dowman c Birks b Hughes	43
*R T Robinson c Ragnauth b Yeabsley	101
P Johnson c Carroll b Janisch	73
C L Cairns c Janisch b Whittall	110
C Banton b Whittall	16
K P Evans c and b Whittall	53
G W Mike b Whittall	0
J E Hindson c Birks b Janisch	5
†S N French not out	1
Extras (b 1, lb 6, nb 2)	9
Total (8 wkts dec, 87.3 overs)	413

R A Pick and J A Afford did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-84, 2-169, 3-258, 4-341, 5-364, 6-374, 7-405, 8-413.

BOWLING: Janisch 19-2-91-2; Carroll 12-1-43-0; Whittall 32.3-8-131-4; Hughes 13-1-62-1; Freeth 7-0-47-0; Yeabsley 4-0-32-1.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: First Innings

R T Ragnauth c Cairns b Afford	4
D E Stanley b Cairns	2
J Ratledge not out	5
†M J Birks not out	0
Total (2 wkts, 15 overs)	11

J P Carroll, R A Battye, M I Yeabsley, *A R Whittall, A N Janisch, E R Hughes and J W O Freeth to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-11

BOWLING: Cairns 4-2-2-1; Pick 5-1-8-0; Mike 3-2-1-0; Afford 2-2-0-1; Hindson 1-1-0-0.

Umpires: K J Lyons and P B Wight.

Oxford University v Worcestershire

THE PARKS (first day of three, Worcestershire won toss): Oxford University, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 310 runs behind Worcestershire.

WORCESTERSHIRE: First Innings

W P C Weston c Kendall b Malik	100
*T S Curtis c Kendall b MacMillan	81
G A Hick c and b Malik	22
G R Haynes run out	17
D A Leatherdale b MacRobert	34
M J Church lbw b Mather	35
†S J Rhodes c Malik b Mather	6
S R Lampitt not out	14
P J Newport not out	3
Extras (lb 5, w 3)	8
Total (7 wkts dec, 88 overs)	320

R K Illingworth and J E Brinkley did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS 1-163, 2-204, 3-210, 4-250, 5-293, 6-299, 7-309.

BOWLING: MacRobert 18-1-69-1; Mather 23-3-88-2; Kendall 3-0-16-0; MacMillan 17-2-59-1; Ricketts 7-0-35-0; Attfield 4-1-14-0; Malik 16-1-55-2.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: First Innings

*G I MacMillan not out	2
I J Sutcliffe not out	3
Extras (w 1, nb 4)	5
Total (no wkt, 6 overs)	10

C M Gupte, A C Ridley, W S Kendall, A S Malik, J M Attfield, A D MacRobert, †M E D Jarrett, J D Ricketts and D V Mather to bat.

BOWLING: Newport 3-1-5-0; Brinkley 3-1-5-0.

Umpires: J W Holder and N T Plews

Other match

Yorkshire v Lancashire

HEADINGLEY (first day of four, Yorkshire won toss): Yorkshire have scored 386 for seven wickets against Lancashire

YORKSHIRE: First Innings

*M D Moxon lbw b Watkinson	18
M P Vaughan b Martin	0
D Byas lbw b Yates	193
M G Bevan b Watkinson	0
C White b Gallian	72
†R J Blakey not out	65
A P Grayson c Atherton b Yates	15
D Gough lbw b Austin	11
P J Hartley not out	2
Extras (lb 2, w 2, nb 6)	10
Total (7 wkts, 103 overs)	386

R D Stemp and M A Robinson to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-57, 3-65, 4-216, 5-315, 6-352, 7-375.

BOWLING: Martin 22-5-75-1; Austin 23-7-52-1; Watkinson 18-4-79-2; Gallian 10-3-47-1; Yates 20-2-81-2; Keedy 12-2-51-0.

LANCASHIRE: M A Atherton, J E R Gallian, N J Speak, G D Lloyd, S P Titchard, *M Watkinson, †W K Hegg, I D Austin, P J Martin, G Yates, G Keedy.

Umpires: J H Harris and G Sharp

Captains' rallying cry

WITH West Indies and Australia level as they go into the deciding fourth Test match in Kingston, Jamaica, tomorrow both captains are calling for a special effort from their players.

West Indies squared the series last weekend with a nine-wicket victory inside three days at Port of Spain. Richie Richardson, the West Indies captain, said on arrival in Kingston yesterday: "We are going to make sure we have the right approach to win this final Test and wrap up the series 2-1. After the result in Trinidad, the guys are feeling good but we can't afford any complacency."

Mark Taylor, the Australia captain, said he hoped his players were not too "shell shocked" from their defeat. "It's the end of a long season, and that's what we'll be saying to the guys. There's this one to go and it's a big one."

For Australia, Glenn McGrath, their most damaging bowler in the series, has a foot injury and Shane Warne, the leg spinner, has an injured right thumb. Steve Waugh is nursing a sore forearm where he was struck a number of times in the third Test.

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Malcolm and Barnett condemn Sussex to day of suffering

Malcolm: right blend

By Jack Bailey

DERBY (first day of four, Derbyshire won toss): Derbyshire, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, lead Sussex by 152 runs

FROM the moment that Kim Barnett flipped the coin and Alan Wells called wrong, Sussex suffered. It was one of those inhospitable days in which Derby seems to specialise: a bitingly cold wind, a touch of green in the wicket, Devon Malcolm at one end, Dominic Cork at the other, and both on song. The result was a Sussex first innings total of 111; all over within five overs of lunch, Malcolm six for 61, Cook two for 12 and only three batsmen in double figures.

That was bad enough, but worse was to come. In time-honoured fashion, the pitch eased. The Sussex opening attack did not compare with that of Derbyshire, but, even so, they might have expected a better fate than to see Barnett in mid-season form, moving to the 45th century of his career in exactly two hours, compiling an opening partnership of 189 with Adrian Rollins — a record for the county against Sussex — and easing along to an undefeated 152, full of delightful strokes.

Barnett's style worries the purists. He is so often on the move when he plays. In this sort of form, though, there are few batsmen better to watch and there were times yesterday when he toyed with cover point, like a latter-day Denis Compton. He hit 15 fours in his century, 22 in all. He could not have made a better start to the championship campaign in his last season as captain of Derbyshire.

Devon Malcolm has started the season with just the right blend of fire and control. Two Benson and Hedges matches had brought him eight wickets. Now, he bowled with varied pace and movement, made the most of the conditions and richly deserved his haul, which might have been even better had O'Gorman, at long leg, held on to a steepler from Lenham when he had made 27.

Afterwards, Malcolm pronounced himself well pleased and in "good nick". "I should have got more wickets for fewer runs," he said. May be so, but, if anyone had a legitimate gripe about the way that things turned out, it was Cork, who bowled beautifully from the favourable Grandstand End in his opening spell, yielded it to Malcolm and never had a shot at the tail.

On a morning when everyone wanted to bowl, it was Cork who struck the first blow. A late away swinger to Athey saw Cullinan pick up a nice catch at slip, and the hunt was on. Hall played on to Malcolm, Wells was caught down the leg side to give Krikken the first of four catches and, when Malcolm disposed of Greenfield and Moores with successive balls, Sussex were 65 for five.

Lenham alone played with confidence. He was quickly on to anything short, pulling Malcolm easily through mid-wicket for a couple of fours. It was the genuine bouncer which undid him, however. He eventually holed out in exactly the same place where he had been previously dropped. Thereafter, nothing much lightened the gloom for Sussex, who were further disconcerted by Jarvis limping off when he had bowled but 2½ overs.

Tufnell outshone by team-mate

Carr's unnatural brilliance in field catches attention

By Michael Henderson

EDGBASTON (first day of four, Middlesex won toss): Middlesex, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 268 runs behind Warwickshire

THIS was almost Phil Tufnell's day. Under the scrutiny of David Graveney, as recently as last season a left arm spinner himself and now a Test selector, Tufnell cooed a siren song that four sailors bought. Then he damaged the index finger of his right hand trying to stop a ferocious straight drive by Ostler and repaired to the pavilion.

Instead the day belonged, as few do, to a fielder. John Carr held six slip catches, three of unnatural brilliance, and made it look like child's play. Emburey also finished with four wickets and owed three of them to Carr. They will not be the last ones he holds this year, not by a long chalk. Warwickshire were Carred and feathered.

His performance was exceptional. It takes an effort of will, not to mention human biology, to loiter at slip for seven hours in April, and talons of steel to hold the edges that fly towards your right ear and left nostril. Yet loiter he did, and catches he took, to the disbelief of the departing batsmen.

The first couple, to dismiss Moles and Twose, were easy enough, though he took them with the air of a man who does not miss much. Indeed he doesn't. Last season only two fielders, Hussain, of Essex, and Wright of, Gloucestershire, held more catches in championship cricket.

His third, which gave Emburey his first wicket, was magnificent. Burns, playing instead of the injured Piper, pushed forward and was as astonished as anyone to see Carr pick up a one-handed catch low to his right that may not be surpassed this year. In Colvile-speak it was a "Tetley Bitter catch of the season". It was better than that. It was a Marston's Pedigree catch and a half.

Ostler, watching from the other end, went a similar way. This time the master snaffler moved sharply to his left. If this occasioned less surprise than his previous effort it was only because once a trickster has produced one rabbit from a hat a second usually follows. Just to show how easy it all was Carr came up with a third, hardly less dazzling, to get rid of Davis.

Tufnell had returned to the field by the time Carr and Emburey ended the innings, and he was a relieved man. He first hurt his index finger during Middlesex's Lenten sojourn in Portugal and must have feared that Ostler's drive, which went for four, had done more serious damage.

He had bowled 31 successive overs from the City end by then, turning the ball occasionally on a green pitch and tempting all the batsmen with clever variations of flight. From 184 for one, with Knight and Twose going well, Warwickshire found themselves 224 for seven and they needed Ostler's half-century to reach 282.

Knight batted with style and freedom in his first championship innings since his move from Essex. He has succeeded another left-hander, a Trinidadian whose name quite escapes me, and has enough talent and confidence to write his own name in the Edgbaston soil.

To fall 15 short of a century was a shame but the Warwickshire crowd should not have to wait long for one.

Tufnell had him caught at short leg an over after Twose was taken at slip. In that afternoon spell Tufnell took four for 19 inside 11 overs as Middlesex clawed back the ground Knight and Twose had defended in making 126 for the second wicket. Warwickshire's batting can still look porous and their bowlers have some work to do today when Donald resumes his confrontation with Gatting. He looked quick and another interesting day is in prospect.

Graveney cannot have learnt much from the day though he may have wished to see Fraser take a wicket or two. So might Fraser. It is too early to play the guessing game except, perhaps, to suggest that Middlesex remain an extremely capable side.

Tufnell grimaces with effort on his return to championship action at Edgbaston yesterday

Harden displays stylish resistance

By Alan Lee, cricket correspondent

TAUNTON (first day of four, Somerset won toss): Somerset have scored 247 for eight wickets against Glamorgan

SOMERSET were the recipients of the merit award from the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) last year for the consistency of their home pitches but the surface on which they began this championship was markedly different. It seamed extravagantly through the morning and was turning by close of play.

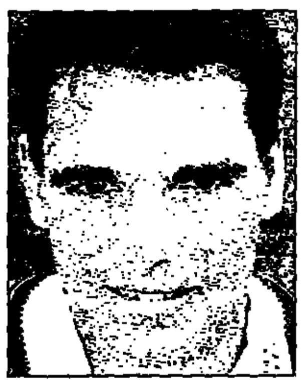
This may not be quite what the TCCB has in mind, in its drive to improve four-day cricket, but in the circumstances, Richard Harden's vigilant century was more than merely worthy, it kept Somerset afloat against a Glamorgan side anxious to atone for an inexplicable decline last year.

With bare patches to exploit, the ball is expected to spin increasingly and Mushtaq Ahmed's contribution will be crucial. No more so, however, than that of Harden, the quiet and constantly underrated local boy. This was his 21st century and he possesses a career average of virtually 40, yet few outside Taunton would recognise him.

Warwickshire won the championship last season through the achievements of several such unlikely heroes and Somerset will need plenty more from the likes of Harden if their ambitions for this summer are to be realised.

They were 43 for three after little more than an hour but it could have been worse. Glamorgan dropped three catches, two to Kendrick at second slip and one to the right of Metson, the wicketkeeper, as Watkin and the bristling Thomas, 20, made eloquent use of the new ball. Trescothick was out second ball. Bowler was missed twice before almost walking for a leg-before decision to Watkin and Lathwell was run out by a direct hit from Cottey, at cover.

Lathwell had just begun to impose himself when he left but the dismissal was as much his own fault as that of a risky call by Harden. Sloppy running between the wickets was a glaring fault of the England team last winter but Somerset had not noticeably learned from it, never taking the first run fast enough to put the fielders under pressure. Croft, constantly cajoling his colleagues, bowled his off spin tidily and took a one-handed return catch to remove Hayhurst. But Turner, Rose and later Caddick, in a stand of 75 for the eighth wicket, were to give resolute support to Harden as he batted, unflustered and unhurried, through the day.



Harden: century-maker

By the final hour, with the pitch at its best, he was driving freely and reached his century, from 290 balls, with a jaunty pull. Glamorgan's own effervescence had just begun to subside.

Symonds makes stirring start by flaying Surrey

By Pat Gibson

THE OVAL (first day of four, Gloucestershire won toss): Surrey are 375 runs behind Gloucestershire with all first-innings wickets in hand

ONE England player was injured before the match even started, another broke down in the middle of his seventh over and a product of the Australian Cricket Academy scored a century off 93 balls. Welcome to another season of county championship cricket.

The first casualty was Graham Thorpe, who ricked his back during fielding practice; the second, Martin Bicknell, who pulled up with a strained calf and had to be helped from the field; the third, the Surrey attack, which was battered and bruised as Gloucestershire, arguably the weakest batting side in the championship last season, ran up a total of 392.

Surrey feared the worst when they heard that Waqar Younis would not be fit to play for them this season and their worst fears were confirmed almost from the moment Gloucestershire won the toss in perfect batting conditions. It was embarrassing enough when Monte Lynch, released last season after 17 years at the Oval, was treating his old colleagues with something close to contempt. It was downright humiliating when Andrew Symonds, only 19 and making his championship debut, was helping himself to 161 not out from 140 balls with four sixes and 21 fours.

There were unconfirmed reports, believed to originate from Waqar's agent, circulating that he would, after all, be able to play again in a fortnight but Surrey were unconvinced, if it was true, he would still have to leave to play for Pakistan in July and, in any case, they have a moral obligation to Carl Rackemann, the Australian fast bowler who has been signed, but not yet registered, as his replacement.

The unpalatable truth is that even with a slipped disc and two separate stress fractures of the back, which Surrey's orthopaedic surgeon says he has, Waqar would probably have been more threatening than some of the trundlers Surrey employed yesterday. The notable exception was Benjamin, who embarked on another summer's toil by taking four wickets, including a spell of three for 12 which at one stage had reduced Gloucestershire to 184 for 6.

Benjamin had struck in his first over, claiming Wright leg-before, but Lynch gave Gloucestershire a flying start with 46 off 58 balls, stroking eight fours in that effortless way of his. Then Dawson made a polished half-century that showed what an asset he would be if only he could turn his fifties into hundreds.

As a result, Gloucestershire were in danger of losing their way until Symonds, born in Birmingham but brought up in Australia, went in to become only their second player to score a century on his championship debut. When he was making 108 not out for Queensland against England during the winter he pronounced himself "a fair dinkum Aussie". The opportunity to play county cricket persuaded him to declare himself eligible for England. Judging from the way he struck his booming drives and rasping cuts, the watching selector, Fred Titmus, should have phoned Raymond Illingworth last night telling him to put him on the shortlist.

Durham batsmen fail to cope with Bovill

By Geoffrey Wheeler

JAMES BOVILL, who like the late Peter May is a product of Charterhouse but hopes to find fame as a fast bowler rather than as a batsman, produced outstanding figures of six for 39 yesterday to mark the start of his first full season with Hampshire.

Largely through his efforts, Durham were dismissed for 177 in the championship match at Stockton after an opening partnership of 76 between the evergreen Wayne Larkins and the new skipper, Michael Roseberry.

Manoj Prabhakar, Durham's new overseas player, made only seven but quickly reminded spectators that he was signed as an all-rounder by taking three for 24 as Hampshire struggled in turn, finishing the day at 126 for seven, six of their batsmen falling leg-before.

Richard Montgomerie, last year's Oxford University captain, batted throughout the day at Canterbury, scoring 113 of Northamptonshire's 343 for five against Kent. The game was nicely balanced when the fifth wicket fell at 172 but David Capel, limited to two matches last season because of injury, cashed in on Montgomerie's display of resolution, scoring 85 of a partnership so far worth 171.

TheYorkshire left-hander, David Byas, maintained his encouraging early-season form by scoring a career-best 193 as his side scored 386 for seven on the first day of the challenge match against Lancashire at Headingley.

He shared century partnerships with Craig White and Richard Blakey but Michael Bevan missed out. The Australian Test batsman lasted only two balls before he was bowled by Mike Watkinson.

Chris Cairns, Nottinghamshire's New Zealand all-rounder, may not yet be back to full fitness after a knee operation, but he did not have to do much running at Fenner's. His hundred against Cambridge University came from only 65 balls. Cairns hit seven sixes — two out of the ground — and seven fours. His captain, Tim Robinson, was rather more sedate, needing 183 minutes and 164 balls to reach three figures.

Oxford, who appear far better equipped to offer the counties worthwhile opposition, hit back well against Worcestershire after Phillip Weston and Tim Curtis had launched the county side's innings with a stand of 163. With Graeme Hick going cheaply, Worcestershire had to be settle for 320 for seven.

Princely knock by master of swing

By Ivo Tennant

CHELMSFORD (first day of four, Essex won toss): Essex, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 103 runs behind Leicestershire

THERE were two splendid innings at Chelmsford yesterday, and both were by middle-aged men. Even Australians, however much they might disparage county cricket and the venerability of those who play it, would have admired the technical excellence of Nigel Briers, who made 114 of Leicestershire's 253, and Graham Gooch, who struck an unbeaten 80 in reply.

Now in his 25th season, Briers would desperately like to see Leicestershire become champions before he give up the captaincy at the end of the summer. For one thing, he has had enough of being told that he has a more glamorous job teaching princes at Ludgrove School. He still bridles easily upon reading that Grace Road is drab and unfashionable, as he does every season.

All that is true enough, but Briers will be gladdened by what he reads this morning, for any opener, Gooch included, would have been proud to have batted as he did here. The very fact that no other Leicestershire batsman scored more than 34 speaks for itself. The ball swung around all morning — indeed, all innings — and he was the one person with the technique to cope with it.

Briers would, in fact, have batted had he won the toss. He did not give a chance until he had made 80 — Robinson should have caught him at second slip — but, by then, it was beginning to look as if he would carry his bat. Ilott and Williams bowled unchanged in the morning, constantly beating the bat outside off stump. Seven wickets were down by lunch.

Gooch, no longer the captain of Essex but, understandably, still highly influential, has long had a high regard for Williams, whose one England cap was won under his leadership. If Williams stays fit, and it is hard to imagine that he will for long, he will take plenty of wickets in these conditions. His out-swinger was working wonderfully well yesterday.

Boon, Cronje, Wells and, ultimately, Briers, were all taken at the wicket driving or playing defensively outside off stump. The one which Rollins held low to his right to remove Wells, followed by a catch off the full face of Millns bat, told of why Garnham has decided, so early in the season, that there is not much point in carrying on.

Cronje struck seven fours in his innings of 34, mostly through firm-footed drives; but, not until Whitticase and Pierson came in, could Briers countenance having a batsman of similar obduracy at the other end. His century, which came off 149 balls and included 12 fours, was, surprisingly, only the 29th of his career. His average, 32.61 at the start of the season, would suggest more.

Gooch can be compared only in age, pleased though he would have been to make a century in these circumstances. By the time that he went in, the ball was not moving around to such a marked extent. Even when it did, the Leicestershire bowlers did not maintain such a disciplined length and line.

Millns did have Prichard dropped at first slip, but, for the most part, the openers were able to play with impunity off the backfoot. Prichard and Gooch, who looks as hard and lean as ever, put on 138 in 40 overs. By the close, Gooch, who looked to be seeing the ball particularly well in the gloaming, had faced 143 balls and struck 11 fours. It was a capital day's cricket.

Fletcher rejoins Essex

KEITH FLETCHER, who was dismissed as England coach after their poor performances in Australia, has rejoined Essex as a cricket consultant (Ivo Tennant writes). He will work full-time during the summer and as required in the winter, coaching at all levels and "instilling awareness into young players", as Peter Edwards, the club's secretary and general manager, put it.

Fletcher, who resolved his compensation from the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) earlier this week, turned down offers from other counties and Sky Television. He said yesterday that he wanted to return to Essex because "they have always been my first love".

Fletcher admitted that he was "surprised and disappointed" to be dismissed by the TCCB. Edwards said that Essex regarded him as having a greater knowledge of the game than anybody else in the country — "whatever the TCCB might think".

Fletcher intends to watch cricketers whom he feels Essex might take on to their staff. "There is a whole gap in English cricket in awareness. I will be involved from the junior side to the first XI."

Fletcher, 50, first played for Essex in 1962 and as captain won every domestic competition. He was briefly captain of England in India in 1981 before being dismissed by Peter May, the then chairman of selectors.

THE TIMES/DILLONS CRICKET FORUM

English cricket — what future?

IS THERE any hope for English cricket? Are the doom-mongers right to say that England will never be a force in the world until they completely reform their present structure? Join Michael Atherton and Graham Gooch (pictured left), Richie Benaud and Micky Stewart — four men who know more about modern English cricket than most — for what promises to be a lively evening of discussion and debate in this *Times*/ Dillons forum on Wednesday, May 17.

Chaired by Alan Lee, cricket correspondent of *The Times*, the panel will look at all aspects of the game, from schools cricket to Test matches. There will be plenty of opportunity for the audience to question and debate with the speakers. A book-signing session will follow the forum.

The event will be held at Westminster Central Hall, Storey's Gate, London SW1 at 7.30 pm. Tickets at £10 (concessions £7.50) are available by ringing 0171-915 6613, by faxing the coupon below to 0171-580 7680, or by sending it with your remittance to Dillons the Bookstore, 82 Gower Street, London WC1, where tickets can also be purchased.

Please send me .... ticket(s) at £10 each (£7.50 concessions) for the Times/Dillons Cricket Forum, to be held at Westminster Central Hall, London SW1 on Wednesday, May 17, 1995 at 7.30pm.

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Mighty Quin Hiller expects his lifelong club to retain dignity

Pride to overcome prejudice

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

ONCE, within nine miles of each other in southwest London, six of England's leading rugby clubs used to coexist: London Welsh, London Scottish, London Irish, Richmond, Rosslyn Park — and Harlequins. Tomorrow, if circumstances conspire to send Harlequins down to the second division of the Courage Clubs Championship, not one will be left in the top flight.

The gulf between the harsh reality of league rugby and the "friendly" days of fixture-making that preceded it could not be better illustrated. It has not happened yet and, if Harlequins beat Gloucester at Kingsholm, it will not happen, regardless of bottom-placed Northampton's success or failure at West Hartlepool. However, as Bob Hiller, the former England captain and full back, put it: "If someone asked me where I would least like to go for a relegation battle, Kingsholm would be top of the list."

Hiller, a Harlequin through thick and thin these past 30 years, offers the voice of reason to the question, "What if . . . ?", which even the most loyal Quin must furtively have voiced this season.

"It would be a blow to our pride, but I think people would be philosophical about it and pull together," Hiller said. "Harlequins have this reputation for being a fragmented side, but, in my association with the club, it has been pretty close. Most of what is written about Harlequins is a myth."

So what effect would relegation have for one of the world's most famous clubs? It might put on hold plans for the development of the Stoop Memorial Ground, which have yet to receive planning approval anyway. It would certainly reduce the club's income, possibly by as much as £300,000 per season, through smaller gate receipts, the reduced hire of hospitality boxes and match sponsorship.

However, the club's proximity to Twickenham would always allow it to hire out its facilities on big-match days, and its administrative costs would be cut in accordance with reduced status.

No player has signed registration forms. The two who have chosen to look elsewhere, Jason Keyter (who has signed for Bristol) and Gavin Thompson (who will move to London Scottish), have already gone and, if relegation prompted such thoughts, then half of next season would be lost qualifying for another first division club.

Moreover, Will Carling, Brian Moore and Jason Leonard, the three England World Cup squad players, have declared their intention of staying. Moore, the captain, has ruled out any move before he concludes his playing career, and Carling stresses how much outsiders underestimate his commitment to Harlequins.

"The club has always embraced players from all backgrounds," Hiller said. "We used to recruit from Oxbridge, but, in the 1960s, we had Jeremy Spencer at scrum half, who was one of the original beatniks. We have always welcomed any player so long as he could play good rugby. Over the years, we have been inconsistent. It used to drive me barmy as captain when we lost games we were capable of winning; this season, we have nobody to blame but ourselves for the position we are in."

Nobody except the Rugby Football Union (RFU), whose refusal to modify the season before the World Cup has left clubs unable to field their international players in all games, and which Hiller describes as "a disgrace". Yet administrators at Harlequins, who field four England and one Ireland international at Gloucester, believe the structure to be sound.

The aura that the Harlequin club enjoys, and which causes so much resentment up and down the country, comes from envy of their former privileged status as occupants of Twickenham (and thus perceived influence with the RFU), the old Oxbridge links, the sheer quality of player/administrator associated with them and from their facility in the job market.

Those who know the club best, from within, acknowledge that the substance is different from the image. Mickey Skinner, the former England flanker, labelled them "pretty boys from public school" before discovering that the Harlequins core was far removed from that. Keith Richardson, a player and coach at Gloucester for the best part of 20 years before joining Harlequins this season, used to think of them as "London woofters" before he, too, discovered the truth.

"They are a different animal; there isn't the community spirit you would find at Gloucester or Leicester," Richardson said, "yet the players are just the same and there is a caring side to Quins which is never seen. They have some tremendous supporters, though they are not so assertive as those from the town clubs.

"In a funny way, I'm quite looking forward to Saturday; I just wish it wasn't under these circumstances. I had a feeling it might happen and, now that it has, nobody at Harlequins has talked about going down. We've played pretty well this month and, if we play for 80 minutes, there are not many teams who can live with us. So talk of relegation is all hypothetical. Let's wait until 4.30 on Saturday."

Moore, the Harlequins captain, has discounted changing clubs before retirement

Richards bids to cap choice week for Leicester

By David Hands

DEAN RICHARDS will lead Leicester against Bristol tomorrow in the match that will decide the Courage Clubs Championship. Should Leicester win, without their five other World Cup squad players, they will add further lustre in a week that has seen them confirm virtually all the funding for their new £2.3 million stand.

Yesterday they announced the support of the Alliance and Leicester Building Society, whose name will be given to the stand, in a five-year agreement believed to be worth £250,000.

Hire of hospitality boxes in the stand has already raised £1 million, though Leicester have been disappointed not to receive support from the Leicester City Council challenge scheme, which was worth a considerable amount in the refurbishment of Leicester City Football Club's stand, just 500 yards away.

Bill Drake-Lee has recovered from an ankle injury against Sale and will play at flanker against a Bristol side with Kyran Bracken playing his first game at scrum half for over a month and giving a debut to the England A lock from Newcastle, Gareth Archer.

Bath, the only rivals to Leicester for the league title, field a modest eight internationals against Sale. Among them will be Graham Dawe, who has been out with injury for the past month, and John Hall, whose final home match it will be before he retires.

The former Harlequins lock, Troy Coker, has been forced by a hamstring injury to withdraw from the Australian side that plays Argentina in Brisbane on Sunday. His place in the back row goes to Willie Ofahengaue.

Diego Cuesta Silva, who was sent off during the opening match in Canberra of the Argentine tour, avoided suspension and will equal the national record of 56 appearances set by Hugo Porta if he survives a fitness test on an ankle injury and is selected to play in the centre.

Manchester stands alone in Games field

MANCHESTER looks certain to stage the 2002 Commonwealth Games (John Goodbody writes). With just five days to go before the deadline for formal bids, no other Commonwealth city has applied to hold the event, which will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Queen's accession. David Dixon, the secretary of the Commonwealth Games Federation, will receive Manchester's application at the Department of National Heritage on Tuesday. The federation is then expected to confirm, at its meeting in Bermuda on November 3, that England will stage the "Friendly Games" for the first time since 1934.

Manchester has to build two essential facilities before 2002 at an estimated cost of £200 million: a swimming complex, including a 50-metre pool, in Wigan and a main stadium in East Manchester, adjacent to the existing cycling arena. The money will be raised from a combination of the Millennium Fund, the National Lottery and the private sector.

Prean warms to task

TABLE TENNIS: Carl Prean, the No 1 seed, and Alan Cooke, the former holder, braved intense humidity to reach the semi-finals of the men's singles at the Commonwealth championships in Singapore yesterday. Prean suggested he is beginning to adapt to the heat during his straightforward 21-11, 21-18, 21-11 victory over Subramanian Raman, of India. Cooke pulled back a five-point deficit in the third game against another Indian, Chetan Baboor, to win 21-17, 21-13, 21-19. Lisa Lomas is England's only survivor in the women's singles, having defeated Tan Fern, of Singapore.

Kimberley eligible again

DRUGS IN SPORT: James Kimberley, the youngest Briton to be suspended from international competition for a drugs offence, will be allowed to compete in future Olympic Games. Kimberley, 17, who has been banned from the modern pentathlon for two years for taking a proscribed painkiller, will have an appeal heard by the world governing body in June. The British Olympic Association said yesterday that there were "significant mitigating circumstances" to allow Kimberley to be eligible for the British team.

Bowe sizes up Schulz

BOXING: Riddick Bowe, right, the World Boxing Organisation heavyweight champion, wants to fight Axel Schulz, the German who lost, controversially, to the International Boxing Federation champion, George Foreman, on Saturday. Bowe, who defends his title against the Cuban, Jorge Luis González, on June 17 in Las Vegas, had been campaigning for a bout with Foreman.

Auguin retains title

YACHTING: Christophe Auguin, 35, won his second BOC Challenge solo round-the-world race yesterday, after completing the 27,000-mile marathon to and from Charleston, South Carolina, in 121 days 17 hours. His time was 19 hours longer than the Frenchman took to win the previous race four years ago. Even so, he beat his closest rivals by almost a week. Auguin's 60ft yacht, Sceta Calberson, began the race last September as favourite but fell behind after a difficult first leg to Cape Town, where he finished third.

Yugoslavs return

FOOTBALL: Yugoslavia, who were banned by Fifa, the sport's world governing body, in line with United Nations sanctions, in May 1992, will return to European club competition in the Intertoto Cup, which begins on June 24. Uefa, Fifa's European counterpart, yesterday issued a statement saying that Yugoslavia had been cleared for entry by Fifa. The competition will involve 60 teams — including three from England — four of whom will qualifying for entry into the preliminary round of the Uefa Cup next season.

Jones advances

REAL TENNIS: Sally Jones, the world champion, won her opening match of the Oracle British women's championships at Seacourt, Hayling Island, with a straight-sets victory over Melvin Pignon. Pignon, the former England hockey captain, volleyed well but failed to take advantage of several game points by making unforced errors. Penny Lumley, the No 2 seed and former world champion, looked sharp and determined, beating the stylish Melissa Briggs without losing a game.

Players must prepare for professional obligations

GERALD DAVIES

Rugby Commentary

Rugby union players and their clubs may soon have to face a reality which, hitherto, they may hardly have begun to contemplate. Once the word "amateur" is erased from the regulations, as an inexorable momentum suggests, the rugby world will be very different.

To sustain the ethos any longer may prove an impossible task; to attempt to guess what the future might hold, once the game is deemed "open", is even more hazardous. Dudley Wood, the secretary of the Rugby Football Union, must sigh with relief that he is retiring. For sure, the game that he knew when he accepted the job at the England headquarters is not the one that he views with trepidation as he departs. Pressures from inside and outside the game have been biting away at amateurism; only the skeleton remains.

Few consider it relevant any longer; amateurism means nothing to the layman. Yet, more often than not, players proclaim their desire to remain amateur. At least, international players do. "We do not want to be paid to actually play the game," they say.

That philosophy sits at odds with donations received from the various trusts and supporters' funds: it is like having your cake and eating it.

This rubric of not wishing to be paid for playing may be interpreted as a soft option; the player may be viewed as as a coward. To remain amateur provides an escape clause. When the heat is on, the player protests that it is the day job that pays the mortgage.

To be paid for playing removes the opportunity for apology. To be paid for playing, of necessity, brings with it numerous obligations. The contract will be signed, the fees paid; no excuses can be proffered. The player will be expected to deliver and to be on call at any time of day — to play, to train and to do whatever it is that the club wishes and the contract demands.

As Alan Jones, the former Australia coach, said recently: "The governor of the Bank of England gets paid his salary and is expected to turn up every morning at 8 o'clock in the City: that is professionalism. The contractual obligations will be no different for the professional rugby player." Are the players prepared?

The philosophy that rugby can be played by men who want to follow a career in tandem with playing the game, as expressed at the International Rugby Football Board meeting in March, may not be sustainable in years to come. Hookers with day jobs as solicitors in the City, or the ubiquitous public relations men on pensionable salaries, will be a thing of the past.

Once professionalised, rugby union, already demanding, will demand some more, so that a decision either to play rugby or pursue another paid calling will have to be made. A man may not do both. It is hardly likely, therefore, that rugby union, at the highest level, will hold the same attraction for the wide and disparate cross section of the population that it has done.

Rugby union may have been seen, often ridiculed, as a resting home full of fuddy-duddy grey beards. This has been misplaced. It may well be that, on occasions, people have miscalculated by over-burdening players with demanding schedules, but, by and large, the game's governance has been by benign and tolerant people.

Having enjoyed a good time in the sport, they have been motivated primarily by a desire to share those experiences with others. Yet the players and administrators, sponsored even, of the future, may be of a different breed. People filling those positions today must ponder that, under pressure, the easiest decision will be to remove the word amateur from rugby's book.

The hardest decision, and one which they have to confront, will be to consider what takes its place.

Shaihar too strong for British raiders

By Our Irish Racing Correspondent

SHAIHAR sprang a 16-1 surprise in the Murphy's Irish Stout Champion Four-Year-Old Hurdle at Punchestown yesterday when beating the Henrietta Knight-trained favourite, Stompin, by three lengths. Two other British challengers, Backgammon and Summerhill Special, were third and fourth.

Stompin was all the rage in the betting, dropping from 5-2 to 13-8, and he looked to have the race won when Jamie Osborne sent him to the front at the second last. However, Shaihar, ridden by Kevin O'Brien, sprinted up the outside and after a brief struggle went three lengths clear.

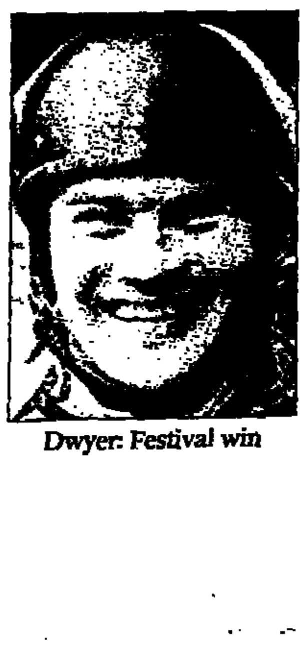
"No excuses," Miss Knight said. "He ran a fine race but was beaten by a better horse. That is it for this term but he will be a better horse next season."

Shaihar's performance was a big step up on anything he had previously shown but his trainer, Michael O'Brien, said: "He has always worked like a good horse but hasn't produced when seeing too much daylight in his races. I told Kevin not to appear until the final flight."

There was a thrilling finish to the Bank of Ireland Novices' Chase over two miles when Strong Platinum impressively beat the Arkle Chase first and second, Klairon Davis and Sound Man.

It was Strong Platinum's third win in ten days and he emulated Viking Flagship's achievement of two years ago by adding yesterday's race to Tuesday's BMW Drogheda Handicap Chase.

The Ritz Club Chase winner, Rough Quest, gave Mick Fitzgerald and Terry Casey a win in the Castlemartin Stud Handicap Chase, quickening from the last to beat Feathered Gale. Mark Dwyer had earlier ridden Derrymoyle to a half-length success in the Tipperkevin Hurdle over the stayers' champion, Dorans Pride.



Dwyer: Festival win

TAUNTON

THUNDERER

5.35 Blurred Image. 6.05 Duke Of Dreams. 6.35 Shaarid. 7.05 Nordic Valley. 7.35 Straight Talk. 8.05 Glen Mirage.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: **8.05 GLEN MIRAGE.**

GOING: HARD SIS

5.35 BRITISH RED CROSS WHEEL APPEAL MAIDEN HURDLE (£2,289: 2m 1f) (14 runners)

1	2000	BOBBIE MO 130 J White 5-11-6	P McLoughlin (3)
2	P-PP	DAYTIME BOMBER 50 D Marks 5-11-6	J A McCarthy
3	0-PP	LICENCE TO KILL 36 N Mitchell 6-11-6	D Skyrme
4	6-6	LONG FURLONG 7 J Bosley 7-11-6	M Bosley
5	PPP2	MOUNTAIN LEADER 7 D Hyde 5-11-6	J Osborne
6		BEXINGTON P Nicholls 5-11-1	Guy Lewis (5)
7	0-F0	DOLLIAS 20 R Buckler 5-11-1	Miss S Cobden (7)
8	U3	BLURRED IMAGE 11 Miss G Kelleway 4-11-0	M Foster
9	P	CLARION CALL 20F (B) G Thorner 4-11-0	B Powell
10	4PP4	DRY SEA 25 R Frost 4-11-0	J Frost
11		HAROLD THE FARRIER K Bridgwater 4-11-0	W Humphreys
12	2302	NORTHERN STARLIGHT 11 P Nicholls 4-11-0	C Maude
13	P	SMART FAMILY 16 M Pipe 4-11-0	R Dunwoody
14	S804	JOSIRNA 16 M McCormack 4-10-9	I Lawrence

5-2 Blurred Image, 3-1 Northern Starlight, 5-1 Bexington, 10-1 Smart Family, 12-1 Josirna, 14-1 Mountain Leader, 16-1 others.

6.05 MELODY MAN CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,099 2m 1f) (15)

1	U013	ILEWIN 20 (F,G,S) M Ahern 8-12-0	M Ahern
2	1F06	DAYS OF THUNDER 28F (D,G) J White 7-11-6	P McLoughlin (3)
3	R/5	POLLOCK 226 (C,F,G,S) Miss L Wormacott 12-11-4	Mr J Culloty (7)
4	5056	WILL JAMES 156 (B,F,G) C Drewe 9-11-1	D Bridgwater
5	65P5	CELCIUS 37 (B,C,D,F,G,S) M Pipe 11-11-1	R Dunwoody
6	4026	CORRIN HILL 27 (D,F,S) R Hodges 8-11-0	A Tory
7	5-33	ROCA MURADA 18 (V) P Hobbs 6-10-13	G McCourt
8	6P32	TENAYESTELIGN 20 D Marks 7-10-13	J A McCarthy
9	0135	FRANKUS 13 (CD,F,G,S) S Mellor 6-10-12	N Mann
10	14-3	COLWAY PRINCE 11 (F,G,S) A Jones 7-10-12	Mr G Brown
11	4363	MADRAJ 206 (D,F) R Hodges 7-10-9	W McFarland
12	0455	TAKE A FLYER 20 (F,G) R Hodges 5-10-4	J Osborne
13	60-1	REELING 11 (F) Paddy Farrell 9-10-1	M Foster
14	3601	DUKE OF DREAMS 11 (D,F) R Baker 5-10-0 (7ex)	B Powell
15	0000	COMANECI 9 (G) K Bridgwater 7-10-0	W Humphreys

7-2 Tenayestelign, 6-1 Days Of Thunder, 7-1 Duke Of Dreams, Frankus, Corrin Hill, 8-1 Ilewin, Reeling, 12-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: I Balding, 3 winners from 6 runners, 50.0%, F Murphy, 4 from 13, 30.8%; S Mellor, 6 from 20, 30.0%, M Pipe, 45 from 185, 24.3%, P Hobbs, 13 from 87, 14.9%; J White, 3 from 23, 13.0%.

JOCKEYS: M Foster, 7 from 29, 24.1%, J Osborne, 10 from 42, 23.8%; N Mann, 7 from 40, 17.5%, G McCourt, 4 from 25, 16.0%, R Darke, 3 from 21, 14.3%

6.35 SOUTH WEST RACING CLUB HANDICAP CHASE (£3,388: 2m 110yd) (6)

1	11P2	SAFFAAH 27 (CD,G,S) M Pipe 8-12-0	R Dunwoody
2	2241	I HAVE HIM 15 (D,F,G) A Jones 8-10-9	B Powell
3	1331	SHAARID 6 (CD,F,G) I Balding 7-10-7 (7ex)	J Osborne
4	5562	COTAPAXI 11 (D,F,G) R Hodges 10-10-0	A Tory
5	2254	LUCKY AGAIN 98 (CD,G) C Popham 8-10-0	M Bosley
6	P4PP	TOLL BRIDGE 11 D Minty 8-10-0	S Lyons (3)

6-4 Shaarid, 9-4 Saffaah, 5-2 I Have Him, 10-1 Cotapaxi, Lucky Again, 66-1 Toll Bridge.

7.05 MOTORWAY SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,811: 2m 3f 110yd) (13)

1	0003	QUALITAIR MEMORY 13 (F,G,S) A Jones 6-12-0	Guy Lewis (5)
2	2302	NORDIC VALLEY 11 (S) M Pipe 4-11-11	R Dunwoody
3	0045	GLOWING PATH 13 (B,F,S) R Hodges 5-11-9	W McFarland
4	0000	DONTDRESSFORDINNER 2 D R Tucker 5-11-3	S McNeill
5	-030	ELECTROLYTE 37 B Palling 5-11-1	J Osborne
6	0000	SHIFT CHANGEOVER 20 (B) S Mellor 4-11-1	N Mann
7	3FP0	URBAN LILY 20 R Hodges 5-10-13	J Harris (7)
8	4450	KEDGE 7 (S) W Clay 5-10-10	Diane Clay
9	P00P	HOSTETLER 17 (S) K Bridgwater 6-10-6	J Parkhouse (7)
10	00P0	OLD MASTER 11 R Baker 4-10-3	B Powell
11	0656	DUMUR 11 P Rodford 5-10-0	M Griffiths (7)
12	0P-6	SAXON MAGIC 13 (V) J Bennett 5-10-0	L Harvey
13	PP0	DESIRABLE MISS 16 Mrs A Knight 5-10-0	D Bridgwater

9-4 Nordic Valley, 7-2 Glowing Path, 5-1 Electrolyte, 6-1 Qualitair Memory, 8-1 Urban Lily, 10-1 Shift Changeover, Kedge, 12-1 others.

7.35 BRITISH RED CROSS ANNIVERSARY NOVICES CHASE (£2,762: 3m) (5)

1	F446	STRAIGHT TALK 20 (F,G,S) P Nicholls 8-11-8	Miss P Curling
2	UPP0	BARGAIN AND SALE 30 (F,G,S) D Minty 10-11-2	S Lyons (3)
3	PP	HARRY BELLE 16 (B,F) R Buckler 8-11-2	B Powell
4	4-P1	MR GENEALOGY 7 (B,C,F,G,S) F Murphy 5-10-13	D Bridgwater
5	50-P	MUTUAL AGREEMENT 45 R Frost 8-10-11	R Darke

4-5 Straight Talk, 5-4 Mr Genealogy, 14-1 Mutual Agreement, 20-1 others.

8.05 RED CROSS AND ST JOHN AMBULANCE COLLECTION NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,994: 2m 3f 110yd) (10)

1	0104	STIR FRY 58 (C,S) P Hobbs 5-11-10	Mr J Craighton (7)
2	2035	SPORTS VIEW 18F (S) R Hodges 6-11-9	Mr M Rimell
3	1000	PERSISTENT GUNNER 11 (G) R Hodges 5-11-2	Mr P Henley
4	0521	GLEN MIRAGE 2 (F,S) M Coombe 10-10-11 (7ex)	Miss M Coombs (7)
5	R301	RUSSIAN EMPIRE 11 (D,F) N Walker 5-10-9 (7ex)	Mr P Cooper (7)
6	4035	REACH FOR GLORY 237 W G M Turner 6-10-6	—
7	U546	MOGWAI 85F R Buckler 6-10-0	Mr M Frith (7)
8	3FP5	COEUR BATTANT 13 (F) R Baker 5-10-0	Mr A Holdsworth (7)
9	-040	POST CODE 16 C Jones 8-10-0	Miss A Dudley (7)
10	6-00	MASCALLS LADY 169 N Thomson 10-10-0	Mr S Davis (7)

5-2 Stir Fry, 7-2 Russian Empire, 5-1 Reach For Glory, Glen Mirage, 8-1 Persistent Gunner, Sports View, Mogwai, 12-1 others.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME. Sandown Park: 3.40 Ridgewood Ben. Carlisle: 2.45 Montanelli. 3.15 Elation. 5.25 Dundeelin. Ludlow: 5.50 Chukaten, Thyfran, Swinging Tich, Western Regal. Perth: 2.20 Explore Mondial. Taunton: 5.35 Clarion Call. 6.05 Roca Murada. 7.05 Shift Changeover. 7.05 Saxon Magic. 7.35 Harry Belle

Beverley

Going: good to firm

2.10 (5f) 1, Fairy Wind (L Dettori, 11-4 fav); 2, Cemaes Bay (10-1); 3, Roy Boy (3-1). 14 ran. 1¼l, 1¼l. N Callaghan. Tote: £4.30; £1.20, £2.40, £1.40. DF: £15.10. Trio: £26.20. CSF: £31.57.

2.40 (1m 1f 207yd) 1, Tonka (J Weaver, 5-2 jt-fav); 2, Just Fizzy (8-1); 3, Durgams First (5-2 jt-fav). 13 ran. 4l, hd. D Murray Smith. Tote: £2.70; £1.80, £2.50, £1.40. DF: £10.60. Trio: £4.00. CSF: £19.35.

3.10 (1m 1f 207yd) 1, Dont Shoot Fairies (B Doyle, 16-1); 2, Komreyev Dancer (8-1); 3, Nigel's Lad (7-2). Imlak 15-8 fav. 10 ran. ½l, 1½l. C Brittain. Tote: £17.50; £4.00, £2.30, £1.60. DF: £68.60. Trio: £57.50. CSF: £135.43. Tricast: £513.63.

3.40 (7f 100yd) 1, Shahid (W Carson, 4-5 fav, Thunderer's nap); 2, Rokeby Bowl (20-1); 3, Pengamon (20-1). 8 ran. 1¼l, ¾l. J Dunlop. Tote: £1.60; £1.10, £3.50, £4.40. DF: £21.20. CSF: £16.45. Tricast: £186.32.

4.10 (1m 1f 207yd) 1, Wonderful Day (K Darley, 5-2 fav); 2, Killick (8-1); 3, Samsonesque (4-1). 10 ran. NR: Narbonne. ¾l, 1l. S Williams. Tote: £3.40; £1.80, £2.40, £1.80. DF: £16.50. Trio: £37.80. CSF: £17.67. Tricast: £54.71. Tote

4.40 (1m 100yd) 1, Romanzof (W Ryan, 2-1); 2, Tilandsia (10-11 fav); 3, Sharpical (20-1). 9 ran. NR: Ball Tender. ¾l, 8l. H Cecil. Tote: £2.70; £1.10, £1.10, £8.10. DF: £1.10. Trio: £18.70. CSF: £4.43.

Jackpot: £14,774.60.

Placepot: £8.90. Quadpot: £13.40.

Fontwell Park

Going: firm (good to firm in places)

2.20 (2m 6f hdle) 1, Bayford Prince (Sophie Mitchell, 9-1); 2, Laughing Gas (3-1 fav); 3, Fast Run (9-2). 12 ran. ¾l, 2½l. Miss J Ewer. Tote: £12.60; £3.10, £1.70, £1.70. DF: £16.50. Trio: £26.70. CSF: £30.32. Tricast: £104.48.

2.50 (2m 2f ch) 1, Wickfield Lad (D Bridgwater, 4-1); 2, Red Bean (7-4 fav); 3, Court Rapier (9-2). 8 ran. 1¾l, 10l. N Babbage. Tote: £5.20; £1.50, £1.20, £1.70. DF: £5.20. CSF: £10.41. Tricast: £25.76.

3.20 (3m 2f 110yd hdle) 1, Punch's Hotel (N Williamson, 20-1); 2, Badastan (6-4 fav); 3, Joker Jack (66-1). 6 ran. 10l, 15l. R Rowe. Tote: £14.40; £7.90, £1.30, £3.30. DF: £18.70. CSF: £48.50. Tricast: £1,727.83.

3.50 (3m 2f 110yd ch) 1, Winnie Lorraine (Mr P Henley, 8-13 fav). Winner finished alone. 3 ran. R Alner. Tote: £1.70. DF: £1.10. CSF: £1.45.

4.20 (2m 2f hdle) 1, Burns (D Bridgwater, 8-1); 2, Poncione (5-2 fav); 3, Pair Of Jacks (4-1). 16 ran. 7l, 2½l. M Tompkins. Tote: £8.60; £2.10, £1.90, £1.70. DF: £14.00. Trio: £16.90. CSF: £27.23.

4.50 (2m 6f hdle) 1, Saint Keyne (A P McCoy, 9-4); 2, Act The Wag (13-8 fav); 3, Alcove (5-2). 10 ran. 5l, 6l. D Williams. Tote: £3.20; £1.50, £1.50, £1.30. DF: £3.90. Trio: £2.50. CSF: £5.75.

Placepot: £6.20. Quadpot: £11.10.

Perth

Going: good

2.00 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Electric Committee (Richard Guest, 8-1); 2, Exclusion (12-1); 3, Charlies Dream (12-1). Space Captain 15-8 fav (pu). 9 ran. 25l, 13l. M Morris. Tote: £4.70, £2.30, £2.40, £3.20. DF: £44.80. Trio: £165.10. CSF: £82.99.

2.30 (3m ch) 1, Rusty Blade (G Cahill, 9-1); 2, Richardson (7-4 fav); 3, Forward Glen (9-2). 8 ran. Nk, 20l. P Monteith. Tote: £8.40; £1.90, £1.40, £2.50. DF: £8.50. CSF: £23.26.

3.00 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, Seod Rioga (Chris Webb, 3-1); 2, Pagliaccio (7-2); 3, Bob Nelson (6-1). Dominie 5-2 fav. 11 ran. 15l, 3½l. S Mellor. Tote: £4.60; £1.70, £1.60, £1.90. DF: £8.70. Trio: £34.20. CSF: £13.95.

3.30 (2m ch) 1, Clay County (B Storey, 10-11 fav); 2, Political Tower (2-1); 3, Si Elmo's Fire (66-1). 6 ran. 1¾l, 15l. M Hammond. Tote: £1.80; £1.20, £1.60. DF: £2.30. CSF: £2.98.

4.00 (3m ch) 1, Unor (Mr R Hale, 7-2); 2, Pyjamas (50-1); 3, No Panic (40-1). Sparkling Flame Evens fav. 7 ran. 7l, 7l. P Monteith. Tote: £5.10; £1.70, £3.30. DF: £34.20. CSF: £79.34.

4.30 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Aslan (B Storey, 10-1); 2, Mr Knitwit (7-4 fav); 3, Eid (5-2). 5 ran. 1l, 5l. Jimmy Fitzgerald. Tote: £6.70; £2.40, £1.10. DF: £8.80. CSF: £26.32.

Placepot: £281.00. Quadpot: £14.60.

Warwick

Going: good to firm

5.30 (1m 4f 115yd) 1, Total Joy (Mr J Durkan, 9-2); 2, Daily Sport Girl (7-2); 3, Preston Guild (8-1). Shoofk 3-1 fav. 12 ran. NR: Spice And Sugar. 1¾l, 4l. P Cole. Tote: £5.50; £1.30, £2.10, £3.40. DF: £15.80. Trio: £58.00. CSF: £19.26. Tricast: £111.73.

Exeter

Going: good

5.45 (2m 3f) 1, Cracking Idea (Mr M Daly, 6-1); 2, Sky Burst (3-1 fav); 3, Bee Moy Do (16-1). 16 ran. 1l, 15l. J Edwards. Tote: £6.20; £2.20, £1.90, £5.20. DF: £14.30. Trio: £163.00 (part won; pool of £121.73 carried forward to tomorrow). CSF: £24.09.

Wednesday's late results

Kempton Park

Going: good

5.30 (6f) 1, High Hope Henry (T Quinn, 11-4); 2, Sonic Mail (11-4); 3, Centurion (9-4 fav). 9 ran. 2½l, 1¾l. P Cole. Tote: £4.90; £1.50, £1.40, £1.30. DF: £5.80. Trio: £3.70. CSF: £10.15.

6.00 (7f) 1, Sulb (J Reid, 3-1 fav); 2, Storm Bid (12-1); 3, Takhlid (10-1). 18 ran. 2½l, 1¾l. A Stewart. Tote: £3.20; £1.90, £5.20, £3.10. DF: £25.90. Trio: £72.80. CSF: £28.20. Godmersham Park (11-2) withdrawn, not under orders — rule 4 applies to all bets, deduct 15p in the pound.

6.30 (1m 1f) 1, Daytona Beach (Debbie Biggs, 9-1); 2, Montone (9-1); 3, Progression (11-1); 4, Lady Reema (25-1). Lady Lacey 13-2 fav. 20 ran. 6l, 3¾l. P Burgoyne. Tote: £15.30; £2.60, £2.70, £3.20, £2.60. DF: £73.70. Trio: £286.40. CSF: £97.54. Tricast: £874.04.

7.00 (1m 4f) 1, Roisin Clover (T Quinn, 20-1); 2, Dancing Sensation (14-1); 3, Durshan (20-1). Bayrak, Children's Choice, Exemption 5-1 jt-favs. 15 ran. 2½l, sh hd. S Dow. Tote: £25.00; £5.00, £4.20, £7.40. DF: £162.60. Trio: £283.00. CSF: £259.32. Tricast: £5,070.09.

7.30 (1m 2f) 1, Riyadian (T Quinn, 11-8 fav, Richard Evans's nap and Private Handicapper's top rating); 2, Quandary (8-1); 3, Kutta (16-1). 23 ran. 3½l, 2l. P Cole. Tote: £2.30; £1.20, £3.90, £4.70. DF: £10.20. Trio: £148.50. CSF: £14.65.

8.00 (6f) 1, Teetotaller (J Williams, 16-1); 2, Ahjay (33-1); 3, Napoleon Star (33-1); 4, Moujeeb (9-1). Domicksky, Face The Future 8-1 jt-favs. 17 ran. ¾l, hd. G Balding. Tote: £19.70; £3.10, £11.10, £12.80, £2.50. DF: £1,721.30. Trio: £929.00. CSF: £424.33. Tricast: £14,250.75.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £58,589.83 was carried forward to Beverley yesterday).

Placepot: £3,169.90. Quadpot: £82.90.

Newton Abbot

Going: good to soft

5.45 (2m 1f) 1, Glen Mirage (Miss M Coombe, 7-1); 2, Dress Dance (8-1); 3, Nine O Three (11-2). Lone Risk 9-4 fav. 10 ran. NR: Sky Burst. 1¾l, 14l. M Coombe. Tote: £10.10; £1.80, £2.20, £2.60. DF: £27.90. Trio: £51.10. CSF: £56.89. Tricast: £302.24.

6.15 (2m 1f) 1, Springfield Dancer (Peter Hobbs, 9-2); 2, Grundon (16-1); 3, Dream Here (12-1). Ballyhamage 7-4 fav. 9 ran. 2l, 2l. P Hobbs. Tote: £3.50; £1.30, £3.40, £2.30. DF: £31.40. Trio: £83.50. CSF: £61.28.

6.45 (3m 2f 110yd) 1, Gregg Boream (C Maude, 7-2); 2, Shaston (10-1); 3, Terao (2-1 fav). 8 ran. 15l, 2l. P Hobbs. Tote: £5.10; £1.80, £2.30, £1.20. DF: £16.80. CSF: £32.02. Tricast: £74.49.

7.15 (2m 6f) 1, Surcoat (B Powell, 100-30); 2, Victor's Boy (6-5 fav); 3, Vision Of Freedom (14-1). 7 ran. NR: Forest Feather. 1¾l, 13l. R Baker. Tote: £3.40; £1.60, £1.40. DF: £2.20. CSF: £7.33. Tricast: £39.37.

7.45 (2m 5f) 1, Larry's Lord (R Dunwoody, 11-4 fav); 2, Alio George (7-2); 3, Mayfair (16-1). 13 ran. NR: Watemeed. 3l, 7l. P Nicholls. Tote: £2.90; £1.10, £1.80, £3.30. DF: £11.20. Trio: £264.60. CSF: £12.54. Tricast: £120.60.

8.15 (2m 1f) 1, Around The Gale (D Leahy, 7-4 fav); 2, Cavalero (40-1); 3, Zhu Jiang (25-1). 15 ran. NR: Tee Cee Pee. 2l, 1l. D Gandolfo. Tote: £2.70; £1.20, £22.70, £5.70. DF: £269.30. Trio: not won. CSF: £69.43.

Placepot: £135.40. Quadpot: £11.10.

Owington tries minimum trip

By Richard Evans
Racing Correspondent

OWINGTON, who blossomed into the best three-year-old sprinter in Europe last summer, is likely to start this season by running for the first time over the minimum trip of five furlongs.

Geoff Wragg, trainer of Baron von Ullmann's July Cup winner, is planning to send the Green Desert colt to the Palace House Stakes at Newmarket next Saturday before going for the Temple Stakes at Sandown and the King's Stand Stakes at Royal Ascot — three races won last year by Lochsong.

The decision to revert to five furlongs has been determined partly by the penalty structure for group one winners, which would have counted against Owington in the Duke of York Stakes and prevented him from lining up in the Cork and Orrery Stakes at Ascot, two six-furlong races he won last year.

However, Owington's recent homework on the Newmarket gallops has convinced Wragg that his star sprinter has an abundance of speed for five-furlong races. Interestingly, in its Racehorses of 1994 annual, *Timeform* states: "Sprinting is his game, and the ease with which he has so far coped with any pace makes him well worth a first try at five furlongs."

As a two-year-old Owington ran all his races over six furlongs and, after disappointing over seven furlongs on unsuitably soft ground in the Greenham Stakes on his seasonal debut last season, he quickly reverted to six furlongs and gained consecutive pattern race wins in May, June and July, culminating in his July Cup victory at Newmarket.

Wragg said yesterday: "Owington works on Saturday and, all being well, he will go for the Palace House Stakes. The drop back in distance is no worry at all; he's got plenty of speed. He's not eligible for the Cork and Orrery because he is a group one winner and that is the reason we will go for the King's Stand."

If all goes according to plan, Owington would then defend the July Cup while later targets could be the Breeders' Cup Sprint or a race in Japan. Fast ground is essential for him to produce his best form.

The rather unusual riding arrangements for the horse, with Michael Hills and Paul Eddery alternating, is likely to continue this season. Hills, who missed out on the July Cup ride because of a suspension, is likely to partner Owington at Newmarket.

Willie Carson's judgment of a horse's ability and potential is highly regarded by trainers for whom he rides and yesterday the Scottish-born jockey had some pertinent remarks to make about Celtic Swing, odds on for next Saturday's Madagans 2,000 Guineas.

Carson, who finished 1¼ lengths behind Celtic Swing on John Dunlop's Bahri in the Greenham Stakes at Newbury last Saturday, commented: "They are all getting carried away by Celtic Swing. For me, he didn't put up a very good trial. My horse finished too close to him. I can see him getting beaten in the Guineas. I am not saying he will be beaten, but it would not surprise me at all."

Nap: TENOR
(4.45 Sandown Park)
Next best: Kildrummy Castle
(3.15 Carlisle)

Owington tackles five furlongs for the first time in the Palace House Stakes. Photograph: Martin Lynch

THUNDERER

2.00 Flying Squaw
2.35 Spectrum
3.05 Wilcuma
3.40 Missed Flight
4.10 STALLED (nap)
4.45 Brave Edge
5.20 Dawlah

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.40 MUTAKDDIM (nap). 5.20 Rainelle.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS
DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

2.00 ALBERT MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,648: 5f 6yd) (12 runners)

101 (5) BEAUTIFUL BALLAD (K Al-Said) B Hills 8-11 W Carson —
102 (2) BEWITCHING (P Deffy) J Toller 8-11 J Weaver —
103 (12) DISALLOWED (J Rackliff) M Bell 8-11 M Fenton —
104 (9) FLYING SQUAW (M Fey) M Channon 8-11 R Hughes —
105 (6) HONORABLE ESTATE (R Bernard) R Hannon 8-11 Pat Eddery —
106 (1) LA MODISTE (Mrs G Smith) S Dow 8-11 L Dettori —
107 (10) LATIN BEAUTY (Kosmeier) R Hannon 8-11 D O'Neill (7) —
108 (11) ROSES IN THE SNOW (G Howard-Spink) J Hills 8-11 R Hills —
109 (3) 0 SOUND CHECK 9 (Theobalds Stud) B Meehan 8-11 B Doyle —
110 (7) VERA'S FIRST (Mrs V Moore) G Lewis 8-11 Paul Eddery —
111 (8) WHITE WHISPERS (R Richards) B Hills 8-11 M Hills —
112 (9) WINGNUT (J Medley) G Lewis 8-11 S Whitworth —

BETTING: 4-1 Honorable Estate, 9-2 Flying Squaw, 5-1 White Whispers, 6-1 Disallowed, 7-1 Beautiful Ballad, 10-1 Bewitching, Latin Beauty, 14-1 others.

1994: FANTASY RACING 8-11 W Carson (6-1) M Channon 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

BEAUTIFUL BALLAD (Foaled Feb 2, cost 3,800gns). Half-sister by Ballad Rock to Havin' A Ball, modest hurdles winner in Ireland and June Ann, placed over 5f in Ireland as a juvenile. Dam placed over 1m 1f at four. DISALLOWED (Feb 27, 22,000gns) Half-sister by Distinctly North to numerous winners. FLYING SQUAW (Jan 27). Half-sister by Be My Chief to juvenile 5f winner Wave Master and winning steeplechaser Top Wave. Dam juvenile 6f winner. HONORABLE ESTATE (Feb 10, 6,800gns). First foal by High Estate; dam a moderate maiden, placed twice at three in Ireland. LATIN BEAUTY (May 1, 7,000gns). Sister by Then Again to staying maiden Manon Lescaut. SOUND CHECK 45l last to Incarvillea in a maiden at Newmarket (5f, good to firm). WHITE WHISPERS (Mar 10). First foal by Absalom, dam, sister to useful 1m 2f performer Fire Top and half-sister to high-class sprinter Dead Certain. WINGNUT (Feb 27, 5,200gns). Half-sister by Digamist to several Flat and jumps winners. No selection

2.35 TUDOR CONDITIONS STAKES
C4

(3-Y-O: £4,958: 1m 14yd) (5 runners)

201 (1) 1- SPECTRUM 189 (D,S) (Lord and Hon S Weinstock) P Chapple-Hyam 9-4 J Reid 89
202 (2) 125-3 STILETTO BLADE 13 (G) (J Smith) I Balding 9-4 L Dettori 98
203 (3) 1 PEUTETRE 85 (D,G) (Dayspring Company Ltd) C Brittain 9-2 B Doyle 60
204 (5) 31 SANOOSEA 13 (G) (M Al-Maktoum) M Stoute 9-2 W R Swinburn 84
205 (4) 61- THAT OLD FEELING 241 (D,F) (B Lalement) R Hannon 9-2 Pat Eddery 73

BETTING: 5-4 Spectrum, 2-1 Stiletto Blade, 6-1 Sanoosea, 7-1 Peutetre, 8-1 That Old Feeling.

1994: KING OF NAPLES 9-4 Pat Eddery (Evens fav) R Charlton 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

SPECTRUM beat La Contessa 10l in 5-runner conditions race at Newbury (1m, heavy). STILETTO BLADE 3½l 3rd of 10 to Two O'Clock Jump in Kempton listed race (1m, good to firm). PEUTETRE beat Jackiessh ¾l in 5-runner Lingfield maiden (AW, 1m). SANOOSEA beat Amrak Ajeeb ½l in 10-runner Haydock maiden (7f, good). THAT OLD FEELING beat Darling short-head in 8-runner Epsom maiden (1m 114yd, good to firm). Selection: STILETTO BLADE

3.05 ATHLONE RATED HANDICAP
C4

(£7,843: 1m 14yd) (10 runners)

301 (6) 113/5- LOMAS 288 (C,F,G) (T Parrott) Mrs H Parrott 4-9-7 J Weaver 89
302 (1) 21030-5 OUR RITA 38 (C,D,F,G,S) (A Edwards) J Scargill 6-9-6 D Harrison 98
303 (10) 28220-2 MOVING ARROW 34 (G) (G Westgarth) Miss S Hall 4-9-4 W R Swinburn 98
304 (2) 400-630 MR MARTINI 9 (F,G) (Pacci Racing) C Brittain 5-9-3 M Rimmer 96
305 (4) 523156- AIR COMMODORE 105 (D,F,G) (W Ponsonby) P Cole 4-9-2 C Rutter 94
306 (8) 1-00000 MASTER BEVELED 8 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs E Williams) P Evans 6-8-13 M Hills 98
307 (7) 2/210- AEROKING 293 (C,G) (PBT Group) G Harwood 4-8-12 A Clark 88
308 (3) 041116- WILCUMA 202 (CD,F,S) (T Warner) P Makin 4-8-9 L Dettori 89
309 (9) 008230- SHANGHAI VENTURE 210 (F) (Dr F Chan) S Woods 4-8-7 C Webb (7) 97
310 (5) 6000-30 SHOW FAITH 11 (D,G,S) (I Wight) R Hannon 5-8-7 Pat Eddery 97

Long handicap: Shanghai Venture 8-6, Show Faith 8-4.

BETTING: 7-2 Wilcuma, 4-1 Moving Arrow, 9-2 Air Commodore, 11-2 Our Rita, 7-1 Show Faith, Master Beveled, 10-1 Mr Martini, 12-1 Aeroking, 25-1 Shanghai Venture, 33-1 Lomas.

1994: EMBANKMENT 4-9-0 J Reid (7-1) R Hannon 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

LOMAS about 10½l 5th of 8 to Lubok in listed race at Newbury (1m 2f, good to firm). OUR RITA about 1l 5th of 9 to Alspot in listed race at Doncaster (1m, good). MOVING ARROW short-head 2nd of 23 to Roving Minstrel in handicap at Doncaster (1m, good to firm) with MR MARTINI (1lb better off) ½l 3rd and MASTER BEVELED (6lb better off) about 8¾l 10th.
AIR COMMODORE about 2¾l 6th of 23 to Chinour in handicap at Newmarket (1m, good to firm). AEROKING beat Dawawe 2½l in 7-runner maiden here (7f, good) penultimate start. WILCUMA beat Realica short-head in 11-runner handicap over course and distance (good to soft) on penultimate start. SHOW FAITH short-head and 1½l 3rd of 17 to Benfleet in handicap at Leicester (1m 2f, good) on penultimate start.
Selection: OUR RITA (nap)

3.40 SANDOWN MILE
C4

(Group II: £34,250: 1m 14yd) (6 runners)

401 (1) 30120-3 MISSED FLIGHT 36 (D,S) (W Gredley/Wr) C Wall 5-9-4 G Duffield 89
402 (6) 310010- LAVINIA FONTANA 168 (F,G,S) (C Humphris) J Dunlop 6-9-3 Pat Eddery 86
403 (3) 65225-3 ALANEES 36 (G) (M Obaida) C Brittain 4-9-0 B Doyle 93
404 (6) 052022- GREEN GREEN DESERT 197 (G) (M Al-Maktoum) M Stoute 4-9-0 W R Swinburn 87
405 (4) 102416- MUTAKDDIM 194 (F,S) (H Al-Maktoum) J Gosden 4-9-0 W Carson 86
406 (2) 12354-2 RIDGEWOOD BEN 19 (B,S) (Mrs A Coughlan) J Oxx (Ire) 4-9-0 J Murtagh 87

BETTING: 5-2 Missed Flight, 3-1 Ridgewood Ben, 4-1 Lavinia Fontana, 9-2 Mutakddim, 5-1 Alanees, 7-1 Green Green Desert.

1994: PENNY DROPS 5-8-11 D Harrison (8-1) Lord Huntingdon 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

MISSED FLIGHT ¾l and short-head 3rd of 9 to Aqua in listed race at Doncaster (1m, good) with ALANEES (3lb worse off) dead-heater for 3rd. LAVINIA FONTANA beat Tarian Black 2½l in 8-runner group III Premio Chiusura at San Siro (7f, heavy) penultimate start. GREEN GREEN DESERT 2l 2nd of 7 to Garden Of Heaven in conditions race at Newmarket (1m 2f, good). MUTAKDDIM beat Raphead 2½l in 9-runner conditions race at Ascot (7f, good to soft) penultimate start. RIDGEWOOD BEN 1l 2nd of 7 to Bin Ajwaad in the 7-runner group III Gladness Stakes at the Curragh (7f, yielding).
Selection: MISSED FLIGHT

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

108 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 ... B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

4.10 GUILDFORD HANDICAP
C4

(£4,397: 2m 78yd) (18 runners)

501 (16) 10006-0 FLIGHT LIEUTENANT 13 (F,G,S) (P & S Lever) R Hannon 6-10-0 J Reid 90
502 (9) 2314-04 POLO KIT 10 (C,G) (Chevalier Park Stud) J Fanshawe 4-9-7 D Harrison 97
503 (7) 05006-0 STONEY VALLEY 11 (F,G) (Ellis & Partners Ltd) J Jenkins 5-8-6 Pat Eddery 95
504 (13) 40240-0 CHIEF'S SONG 11 (Miss A Dengas) S Dow 5-9-1 R Hughes 86
505 (2) 1510-15 LALINDI 11 (G,S) (White Horse Racing) D Elsworth 4-8-12 J Williams 98
506 (5) 14-2 SMUGGLING 27 (F) (G Tanner) R Akehurst 4-8-11 L Dettori 98
507 (11) 2436-40 PHIL'S TIME 11 (B) (T Morgan) T Mills 4-8-11 W Newnes 97
508 (12) 20/10-40 WILD STRAWBERRY 11 (F,G) (Copyforce) Miss B Sanders 6-8-11 S Sanders (3) 88
509 (14) 05001P/ GO SOUTH 40P (D,F,G,S) (T Hills) J Jenkins 11-8-4 D Biggs —
510 (10) 40416-0 HIGH FIVE 38 (G) (D Wilson) D Wilson 5-8-3 G Carter 90
511 (1) 12/6000- COLERIDGE 35J (B,D,F,G) (P Sheehan) J Sheehan 7-8-3 R Price —
512 (6) 6611-00 STALLED 11 (D,G,S) (Mrs P Walwyn) P Walwyn 5-8-0 M Henry (7) 89
513 (15) 5-51200 SHELTERED COVE 11 (D,F,G) (A Richards) K Cunningham-Brown 4-7-12 B Doyle 95
514 (18) 0/00045- INCHCAILLOCH 43J (F,S) (F Carter) J King 6-7-12 N Carlisle 90
515 (3) 446/ RAAHIN 38J (C,F,S) (R Aikins) S Woodman 10-7-9 W Carson —
516 (17) 561403 HEAD TURNER 3 (D,G,S) (I Jarrard) C Wildman 7-7-7 G Bardwell 97
517 (8) 46361-0 DAKOTA GIRL 18 (S) (Dr J Leigh) G Balding 4-7-7 C Rawlesley (5) 94
518 (4) 0/00- SAILS LEGEND 122J (Mrs G Davison) Mrs M Long 4-7-7 N Adams —

Long handicap: Dakota Girl 7-5, Sails Legend 7-3.

BETTING: 9-2 Smuggling, 11-2 Lalindi, 6-1 Stoney Valley, 7-1 Polo Kit, 8-1 Stalled, 10-1 Flight Lieutenant, Inchcailloch, 12-1 Sheltered Cove, Wild Strawberry, 14-1 others.

1994: BOLD RESOLUTION 6-9-7 M Roberts (10-1) C Cyzer 16 ran

FORM FOCUS

FLIGHT LIEUTENANT 4¾l 6th of 12 to Sun Grebe in handicap at Ascot (2m, good to soft) penultimate start. POLO KIT 2¼l 4th of 16 to Tudor Island in handicap at Newmarket (1m 6f, good to firm) with HEAD TURNER (6lb better off) 16¾l 9th. LALINDI beat SMUGGLING (1lb better off) head in 14-runner handicap at Warwick (1m 7f, good to soft) with PHIL'S TIME (9lb better off) 11l 4th and POLO KIT (9lb better off) 30l 12th.
STALLED 3½l 4th of 20 (subsequently placed last) to Always Aloof in handicap at Kempton (2m, good to firm) with LALINDI 3l 5th, WILD STRAWBERRY 1¾l 7th, STONEY VALLEY 1l 8th, CHIEF'S SONG 9¾l 10th, SHELTERED COVE 10l 14th and PHIL'S TIME short-head 15th.
INCHCAILLOCH 7½l 5th of 18 to Ballymac Girl in handicap at Folkestone (1m 4f, soft). HEAD TURNER 4½l 3rd of 14 to Rolling The Bones in handicap at Folkestone (1m 7f 92yd, good to firm). DAKOTA GIRL beat Fruitful Affair neck in 17-runner handicap at Folkestone (1m 7f 92yd, good to soft) penultimate start, with SHELTERED COVE (3lb better off) 7¾l 6th.
Selection: POLO KIT

4.45 BOW STREET HANDICAP (£5,680: 5f 6yd) (12 runners)

601 (10) 3/1040-2 BRAVE EDGE 7 (CD,F,G) (Mrs M Peatt) R Hannon 4-9-10 Pat Eddery 89
602 (9) 00033-6 SIR JOEY 7 (D,F,S) (Mrs A Sims) P Murphy 6-9-9 S Drowne (5) 94
603 (1) 135226 LEIGH CROFTER 51 (B,D,F,G,S) (P Dennock) P Cundell 6-8-13 W Newnes 93
604 (4) 100500- MACFARLANE 167 (D,G,S) (P F-Godley) M F-Godley 7-8-13 W R Swinburn 96
605 (6) .00012- SWEET MAGIC 273 (CD,G) (Mrs J Crawford) L Holt 4-8-12 J Reid 89
606 (8) 1156-06 KILDEE LAD 11 (D,F,G) (J O'Donnell) A Jones 5-8-12 B Doyle 94
607 (5) 1600/40- METAL BOYS 190 (CD,F,G,S) (Miss L Siddall) Miss L Siddall 8-8-11 D Harrison 91
608 (11) 21000-4 NAME THE TUNE 21 (D,G,S) (C Hammond) P Howling 4-8-11 Paul Eddery 94
609 (12) 000/303- JOBIE 275 (CD,G) (J Redmond) B Hills 5-8-9 M Hills 85
610 (3) 071321 TENOR 6 (D,G) (G Thompson) D Nicholls 4-8-4 (6ex) Alex Greaves 97
611 (2) 21036-2 SUE ME 15 (S) (M Payton) W Muir 3-8-2 W Carson 93
612 (7) 23426-0 FOLLOWMEGIRLS 27 (D,F,G) (Execs of late J Martin) Mrs A King 6-7-12 N Adams 90

BETTING: 4-1 Brave Edge, 9-2 Sweet Magic, 6-1 Tenor, 7-1 Jobie, Sir Joey, 8-1 Name The Tune, 10-1 Sue Me, 12-1 others.

1994: BOLD STREET 4-8-0 D Wright (8-1) A Bailey 14 ran

FORM FOCUS

BRAVE EDGE head 2nd of 14 to Royal Figurine in handicap at Newbury (5f, good to firm) with SIR JOEY 3¾l 8th. SIR JOEY 1½l 3rd of 20 to How's Yer Father in handicap at Chepstow (6f, good) on penultimate start, with LEIGH CROFTER (2lb better off) 1l 4th and KILDEE LAD (1lb better off) neck 5th. MACFARLANE 9l 7th of 13 to Dawalib in handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 6f) with LEIGH CROFTER 3l 10th. SWEET MAGIC neck 2nd of 11 to Jayannpee in handicap at Goodwood (5f, firm) with NAME THE TUNE (3lb better off) 12¾l 10th. NAME THE TUNE 2¾l 4th of 11 to Nordico Princess in handicap at Lingfield (5f, good to firm). JOBIE 2¾l 3rd of 7 to Satchworth Bound in handicap at Epsom (5f, good to firm). TENOR beat Broadstairs Beauty head in 15-runner handicap at Thirsk (5f, good).
Selection: BRAVE EDGE

5.20 APRIL MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES
(3-Y-O: £4,260: 1m 2f 7yd) (16 runners)

1 (7) 4 ALL THE TIME 7 (HRH Prince Fahd Salman) P Cole 8-11 R Hughes 89
2 (8) 22- ASTERITA 227 (B Nielsen) R Hannon 8-11 Pat Eddery 94
3 (2) 2- DAWLAH 184 (H Al-Maktoum) H Thomson Jones 8-11 R Hills 90
4 (15) 0- ELLY FLEETFOOT 211 (Dr S Barnes) T Mills 8-11 W Newnes —
5 (10) 0- GREY BLADE 189 (J Smith) I Balding 8-11 J Weaver —
6 (9) 0 LAMP OF PHOEBUS 11 (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 8-11 L Dettori —
7 (4) 0- PERIPATETIC 175 (Sheikh Mohammed) M Stoute 8-11 Paul Eddery —
8 (14) 2- PITCROY 200 (Sir David Wills) J Fanshawe 8-11 D Harrison 80
9 (5) 0- RISK A MILLION 172 (M Moore) J Jenkins 8-11 D Biggs —
10 (3) 5- RUBY VENTURE 303 (Dr F Chan) S Woods 8-11 M Tebbutt 67
11 (13) 0- STAGE STRUCK 181 (Lord and Hon S Weinstock) M Stoute 8-11 W R Swinburn —
12 (6) 6- TEMPTING 230 (W Hawkings) R Hannon 8-11 J Reid —
13 (1) 66- TRAZL 181 (Hesmonds Stud) J Dunlop 8-11 W Carson 75
14 (12) KSHESSINSKAYA (W Gredley) G Rimmer 8-7 M Rimmer —
15 (11) RAINELLE (S Massey) C Brittain 8-7 B Doyle —
16 (16) WELLS WHISPER (Baron G von Ullmann) G Wragg 8-7 M Hills —

BETTING: 4-1 Dawlah, 5-1 Asterita, 6-1 Stage Struck, 7-1 Wells Whisper, 8-1 All The Time, Lamp Of Phoebus, 10-1 Trazl, 12-1 Pitcroy, 14-1 others.

1994: LAS FLORES 8-7 Pat Eddery (10-1) P Cole 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

ALL THE TIME 6¾l 4th of 19 to Tamhid in Newbury maiden (7f, good to firm). ASTERITA 5l 2nd of 11 to Phantom Gold in maiden here (1m, good to soft). DAWLAH 4l 2nd of 15 to Tzalkey in maiden at Yarmouth (1m, good). GREY BLADE 29l 13th to Moonshell in Doncaster maiden (1m, good to soft). PERIPATETIC 22l 11th to Taipan in Doncaster maiden (7f, soft). PITCROY 2½l 2nd to Zilayah in maiden at Leicester (7f, good) with TRAZL 4½l 6th. TEMPTING 17l 6th of 7 to Posidonas in Goodwood maiden (1m, good). TRAZL 9¾l 6th to Tamnia in Newmarket maiden (7f, good to soft) with STAGE STRUCK 5¾l 12th.
Selection: ALL THE TIME

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
J Gosden	19	83	22.9	Pat Eddery	43	241	17.8
Miss L Siddall	3	15	20.0	L Dettori	26	155	6.8
J Fanshawe	10	52	19.2	W R Swinburn	20	135	14.8
J Dunlop	15	90	16.7	G Carter	6	42	14.3
H Thomson Jones	4	24	16.7	D Harrison	10	81	12.3
G Balding	6	37	16.2	M Hills	10	81	12.3

Spectrum to confirm juvenile promise

SANDOWN PARK
C4

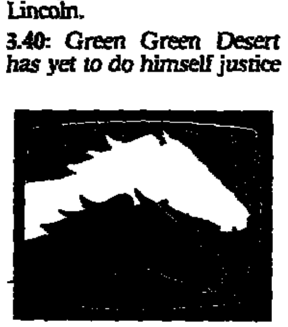
2.35: Spectrum can continue the good start made by Peter Chapple-Hyam's three-year-olds. The colt, one of only two sired by Rainbow Quest to win as a two-year-old last term, humbled four previous winners when obliging by ten lengths on his only start at Newbury. Stilletto Blade, fifth in the Dewhurst, is arguably the form choice but Ian Balding's string is yet to hit form. Sanoosea, who landed a Haydock maiden, will appreciate today's trip.

3.05: *Wilcuma scored three times over this trip last season and looks sure to win more races. But like the fairly treated Air Commodore, he may just need his seasonal debut. Show Faith returns to a mile but is not the force of old and preference is for* **Moving Arrow** *who just failed to win the Lincoln.*

3.40: *Green Green Desert has yet to do himself justice on the racecourse but there are good grounds for believing he will improve noticeably this year. Lavinia Fontana prefers softer ground and a shorter trip. Missed Flight was unlucky at Doncaster when dead-heating for third place with Alanees but could be hard pressed to confirm Prix de la Foret form with Ridgewood Ben and* **Mutakddim**, *who can benefit from a step up to a mile.*

4.10: *Polo Kit, a good fourth at Newmarket, may be best at slightly shorter than two miles. Although he was disqualified and placed last after finishing fourth in the Queen's Prize at Kempton, Stalled did best of the five runners reopposing here and must have sound claims.* **Inchcailloch** *has never raced beyond a mile and three quarters on the Flat but after a successful winter over hurdles, culminating in a fourth place in the County Hurdle, Jeff King's runner can oblige.*

RICHARD EVANS


TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

CARLISLE

THUNDERER
2.10 Sweet Supposin. 2.45 Spanish Verdict. 3.15 On A Pedestal. 3.50 Royal Scimitar. 4.20 Sky Dome. 4.55 Miss Whittingham. 5.25 Elle Shaped.
Our Newmarket Correspondent: 4.20 Sky Dome.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: 5F-1M, HIGH BEST SIS

2.10 KESTREL CLAIMING STAKES
(Div I: £2,689: 6f 206yd) (8 runners)

1 (1) 600- ONCE MORE FOR LUCK 11J (G,S) Mrs M Reveley 4-9-7 K Darley 89
2 (4) 4653 ALLINSON'S MATE 13 (D,F,G) T Barron 7-9-3 J Fortune 85
3 (3) 1330 SWEET SUPPOSIN 11 (B,G) K McAuliffe 4-9-3 R Cochrane 84
4 (5) DAYTIME DAWN 87J D Moffatt 4-8-9 Darren Moffatt (3) —
5 (8) 5000 VENTURE FOURTH 23 E Alston 6-8-7 K Fallon —
6 (2) 360- MILBANK CHALLENGER 139J (F,G) W Storey 5-8-5 D R McCabe (3) 75
7 (6) 1002 PROFIT RELEASE 9 (D,F,G) M Johnston 4-8-4 D Holland 89
8 (7) 00/0 SHROPSHIRE BLUE 11J D Nolan 5-7-12 C Teague (5) —

9-4 Allinson's Mate, 3-1 Once More For Luck, 7-2 Profit Release, 4-1 Milbank Challenger, 6-1 Sweet Supposin, 14-1 Daytime Dawn, 16-1 others.

2.45 GOLDEN EAGLE HANDICAP
(£3,809: 7f 214yd) (15)

1 (2) 20-4 LEIF THE LUCKY 34 (CD,G,S) Miss S Hall 6-10-0 N Connorton 92
2 (10) 210- CURRENT SPEECH 58J (D,S) M H Easterby 4-9-3 M Birch 90
3 (12) 6006 CEE-JAY-AY 11 (D,F,G,S) J Berry 8-9-0 P Roberts (7) 93
4 (3) 100- GYMCRAK FLYER 226 (D,F) G Holmes 4-9-0 K Fallon 90
5 (13) -000 KING OF SHOW 11 R Allan 4-8-13 C Dwyer 92
6 (9) 5605 VELOCE 21 (D,F,G) A Bailey 7-8-12 F Norton 91
7 (1) 0/0 IZZA 16 W Storey 4-8-12 D R McCabe (3) —
8 (15) -065 PRINCESS MAXINE 6 (CD,F,G,S) J J O'Neill 6-8-10 J Carroll 92
9 (8) 0-63 SPANISH VERDICT 11 (CD,F,S) Denys Smith 8-8-9 C Teague (5) 91
10 (5) 1206 MONTANELLI 8 (B,D,G) K McAuliffe 3-8-5 R Cochrane 93
11 (14) 0112 BUSY BANANA 4 (D,F,G) R Hannon 3-8-3 (5ex) K Darley 89
12 (4) 0-20 MY HANDY MAN 74 R Allan 4-8-0 S Maloney 89
13 (11) 3323 MARY'S CASE 29 M Johnston 5-8-0 T Williams 89
14 (7) -200 SELF EXPRESSION 11 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs J Ramsden 7-7-13 J Fanning 91
15 (6) 40-0 COMEONUP 7 (S) J Bradley 4-7-12 L Charnock 91

7-2 Busy Banana, 5-1 Leif The Lucky, 7-1 Princess Maxine, 8-1 Montanelli, Spanish Verdict, 10-1 Veloce, Self Expression, 12-1 others.

3.15 MERLIN HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £3,657: 1m 4f) (9)

1 (2) 00-3 SPANISH STEPS 8 M W Easterby 9-7 M Birch 90
2 (8) 00-5 ELATION 29 (B) P Cole 9-3 T Quinn 89
3 (4) -332 HARD TRY 17 M Camacho 9-1 L Charnock 96
4 (7) 0-04 KILDRUMMY CASTLE 20 Mrs J Ramsden 9-1 K Fallon 89
5 (9) 00-0 HONG KONG DESIGNER 23 S Norton 8-13 Darren Moffatt (3) 91
6 (3) 16-0 ON A PEDESTAL 23 (F) Mrs J Ramsden 8-11 R Cochrane 88
7 (6) 046- BARK'N'BITE 178 Mrs M Reveley 8-10 K Darley 91
8 (1) 040- CALTHA 206 P Calver 8-9 N Varley (5) 80
9 (5) 6544 BOUNDARY EXPRESS 9 M Johnston 8-9 T Williams 89

11-4 On A Pedestal, 7-2 Spanish Steps, 9-2 Hard Try, 6-1 Kildrummy Castle, 7-1 Bark'n'bite, 8-1 Hong Kong Designer, 10-1 Elation.

3.50 SPARROW HAWK MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £3,657: 1m 4f) (7)

1 (7) 40 BLUE SMOKE 10 B McMahon 9-0 T Ives 70
2 (2) 3 DAWN MISSION 11 M H Easterby 9-0 M Birch 88
3 (5) 0-4 FEARLESS VENTURE 18 S Woods 9-0 W Woods 81
4 (3) 32-2 ROYAL SCIMITAR 10 P Cole 9-0 T Quinn 89
5 (4) MEDWAY M Tompkins 8-9 P Robinson —
6 (6) PHILMIST J Hetherton 8-9 N Kennedy —
7 (1) VICTORIA DAY J Watt 8-9 N Connorton —

4-7 Royal Scimitar, 6-1 Fearless Venture, 7-1 Dawn Mission, 8-1 Victoria Day, 12-1 Medway, 14-1 Blue Smoke, 25-1 Philmist.

4.20 BUZZARD MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,469) (11)

1 (9) 0 ALBERT THE BEAR 24 J Berry 9-0 J Carroll —
2 (10) 6 BORANA LODGE 8 Mrs J Ramsden 9-0 K Fallon —
3 (11) 2 DOUBLE POINT 7 M Bell 9-0 G Faulkner (7) —
4 (8) JACKSON PARK M H Easterby 9-0 M Birch —
5 (2) 024 RAMSEY HOPE 13 C Fairhurst 9-0 N Kennedy —
6 (1) 0 ROYAL RAPPORT 13 B McMahon 9-0 T Ives —
7 (3) 5 SKY DOME 13 M Tompkins 9-0 P Robinson —
8 (5) 2 GAGAJULU 16 P Evans 8-9 J Fortune —
9 (7) KRWID G Moore 8-9 N Connorton —
10 (6) MEETING POINT Mrs M Reveley 8-9 K Darley —
11 (4) VILLAGE OPERA G Moore 8-9 J Fanning —

5-2 Sky Dome, 7-2 Double Point, 5-1 Ramsey Hope, 7-1 Meeting Point, 8-1 Gagajulu, Borana Lodge, 10-1 Jackson Park, 14-1 others.

4.55 PEREGRINE FALCON HANDICAP
(£3,095: 5f 207yd) (19)

1 (13) 1210 ZIGGY'S DANCER 35 (D,G) E Alston 4-9-13 K Fallon 89
2 (11) 0-03 COLWAY RAKE 11 (B,D,G,S) J Watts 4-9-10 N Connorton 94
3 (19) 00-0 LIGHT MOVEMENT 7 W Cunningham 5-9-7 A Culhane 98
4 (17) 0-00 MU-ARRIK 11 (V,D,F,G) G Oldroyd 7-9-7 J Fortune 91
5 (3) 024- FEATHERSTONE LANE 118 (V,F) Miss L Siddall 4-9-6 D R McCabe (3) 87
6 (4) 0-26 SAKHAROV 17 (CD,F,G) M Johnston 6-9-5 P Robinson 90
7 (12) 0-03 MISS WHITTINGHAM 7 (C,D,F,G,S) J Berry 5-9-5 J Carroll 93
8 (6) -430 BOGART 21 (G) C Fairhurst 4-9-4 R Cochrane 93
9 (7) 0-00 DENSBEN 7 (C,D,F,G,S) Denys Smith 11-9-3 D Holland 98
10 (9) 0-30 BIRCHWOOD SUN 16 (B,CD,F,G,S) M Dods 5-9-2 V Halliday (5) 98
11 (10) 64-4 MICHELLISA 21 J Bethell 4-9-1 K Darley 89
12 (8) 4-00 RICH GLOW 8 N Bycroft 4-8-7 S Maloney 89
13 (2) 00-3 ASTERIX 11 (V,D,F,G) J Bradley 7-8-6 L Charnock 93
14 (16) /03- NORTHERN SPARK 214 (D,G) M Wane 7-8-5 J Fanning 94
15 (15) 6-02 CLEDESCHAMPS 16 (G) M Ellerby 6-8-0 C Teague (5) 93
16 (18) 0036 SWEET CHEAP PET 65 (D,F,G) J J O'Neill 3-7-12 F Norton 95
17 (11) 00-0 SHOTLEY AGAIN 7 (G,S) N Bycroft 5-7-9 N Varley (5) 88
18 (14) 00-0 UPPANCE 29 D Nolan 7-7-7 Darren Moffatt (3) 88
19 (5) 000- TO PROVE A POINT 307 J J O'Neill 3-7-7 N Kennedy —

6-1 Asterix, 7-1 Colway Rake, 8-1 Miss Whittingham, Mu-Arrik, Cledeschamps, 10-1 Sakharov, 12-1 others.

5.25 KESTREL CLAIMING STAKES
(Div II: £2,675: 6f 206yd) (8)

1 (2) 0-00 ELLE SHAPED 23 (D,F,G) D Nicholls 5-9-3 N Connorton 89
2 (3) 00 OPERATIC DANCER 16 R McKellar 4-8-13 T Williams —
3 (8) KARIBU 11J M Meagher 4-8-11 J Carroll —
4 (4) 63-0 WALI 18 (CD,G,S) V Thompson 5-8-9 J Stack (5) 85
5 (7) 3-30 NAKITA 13 (F,S) C Allen 4-8-4 M Baird (5) 84
6 (5) -506 OBSIDIAN GREY 3 (C,D,F,G,S) Miss L Siddall 8-8-3 P McCabe (5) 77
7 (1) 0400 DUNDEELIN 9 (B,S) J Eyre 4-8-2 R Lappin 68
8 (6) /00 KENESHA 16 D Nolan 5-8-2 N Varley (5) 88

3-1 Nakita, 7-2 Wali, 4-1 Elle Shaped, 5-1 Obsidian Grey, Dundeelin, 8-1 Operatic Dancer, 10-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Tompkins, 12 winners from 38 runners, 31.6%; Mrs J Ramsden, 11 from 40, 27.5%; S Norton, 8 from 30, 26.7%; Miss S Hall, 4 from 15, 26.7%; Mrs M Reveley, 12 from 54, 22.2%; J Berry, 21 from 96, 21.9%.

JOCKEYS: W Woods, 3 winners from 6 rides, 50.0%; P Robinson, 13 from 34, 38.2%; R Cochrane, 3 from 12, 25.0%; A Culhane, 7 from 31, 22.6%; J Carroll, 15 from 89, 16.9%.

LUDLOW

THUNDERER
5.50 Albeit. 6.20 Chip And Run. 6.50 Paddy In Paris. 7.20 First Crack. 7.50 Wild Illusion. 8.20 Tenbit.
Brian Beel: 7.50 Wild Illusion.

GOING: FIRM SIS

5.50 HARRIS, ALDAY, LEA & BROOKS NOVICES SELLING HURDLE (£2,070: 2m) (14 runners)

1 PPP0 CHUKATEN 130 (B) J Mackie 6-11-2 J Titley
2 5005 GLORIOUS ISLAND 6 T Forster 5-11-2 A McCoy
3 000P MANDALIA MELODY 17 B Preece 5-11-2 T Wall
4 -000 TIYFRAN 11F (B) B Baugh 5-11-2 R Davis
5 F0F5 ALBEIT 11 R Evans 5-10-11 D Fortt (5)
6 0004 AVRIL ETOILE 20 C Jones 5-10-11 G Upton
7 50-0 SIAN WYN 16 K Burke 5-10-11 M A Fitzgerald
8 -060 STRAWBERRY FOOL 98 P Bradley 6-10-11 S Wynne (3)
9 SWINGING TICH 87F (V) A Forbes 6-10-11 T Eley (3)
10 P PERTEMPS FLYER 16 R Dickin 4-10-10 D Meredith (3)
11 002 TIMELY EXAMPLE 20 (B) B Cambidge 4-10-10 Gary Lyons
12 WESTCOAST 15F M Tate 4-10-10 W Marston
13 5 WESTERN FLEET 11 (B) J Peacock 4-10-10 R Bellamy
14 P02 LITTLE MINER 11 I Jones 4-10-5 Miss E J Jones (7)

4-1 Sian Wyn, 9-2 Glorious Island, 11-2 Timely Example, 6-1 Chukaten, Avril Etoile, 10-1 Albeit, 12-1 others.

6.20 BROMFIELD SAND AND GRAVEL HANDICAP CHASE (£3,525: 2m 4f) (4)

1 /P-4 ALDINGTON BELL 11 (B,CD,F) C Trietline 12-11-10 M A Fitzgerald
2 PPP3 CHIP AND RUN 25 (D,F,G) Mrs J Retter 9-11-9 A McCoy
3 0044 BEACH BUM 9 (G) Mrs J Young 9-11-5 G Upton
4 PP-P MINT-MASTER 11 (F) B Shaw 10-10-0 C Llewellyn

6-4 Chip And Run, 7-4 Beach Bum, 9-4 Aldington Bell, 20-1 Mint-Master.

6.50 CALFIRE STANLEY NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,200: 3m) (6)

1 UFP4 BADBURY LAD 17 (B,S) Mrs J Renfree-Barons 9-11-10 R Greene
2 0452 PANT LLIN 20 (F) F Jordan 9-11-5 J Lodder
3 P41P CLOWN AROUND 11 (F) J Hubby 7-10-9 R Davis
4 PP-0 BRORA ROSE 37 (B,S) P Rodford 7-10-8 M A Fitzgerald
5 0PP3 PADDY IN PARIS 4 J Needham 12-10-7 A McCoy
6 604P HENNERWOOD OAK 11 R Price 5-10-0 G Hogan (5)

Evens Badbury Lad, 7-2 Pant Llin, 4-1 Paddy In Paris, 6-1 Clown Around, 14-1 Hennerwood Oak, 20-1 Brora Rose.

7.20 DJ PROFILES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,200: 2m 5f 110yd) (5)

1 5341 KINDLE'S DELIGHT 11 (F,G) Miss H Knight 7-12-2 (6ex) J Titley
2 6011 FIRST CRACK 11 (CD,F,G,S) F Jordan 10-11-7 (6ex) J Lodder
3 5225 SUREN 11 (G,S) Mrs J Retter 9-11-0 A McCoy
4 4F05 MOUNTSHANNON 11 (CD,F,G) C Trietline 9-10-10 M A Fitzgerald
5 -080 HYDEMILLA 23 Mrs T Pilkington 5-10-0 G Hogan (5)

Evens Kindle's Delight, 6-4 First Crack, 6-1 Suren, 12-1 Mountshannon, 33-1 Hydemilla.

7.50 LUDLOW RACECOURSE BOOKMAKERS HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £1,725: 2m 4f) (10)

1 1/41 GREAT GUSTO 15P (F) Miss L Blackford 9-12-7 Miss L Blackford (7)
2 1136 SOLAR GREEN 21 (F,G,S) S Brookshaw 10-12-7 S Brookshaw (5)
3 1211 WILD ILLUSION 11 (C,F,G,S) Miss J Pidgeon 11-12-7 J Trice-Rolph (5)
4 4S6P BROWN SAUCE 23 (F) J de Giles 9-12-0 L Baker (7)
5 -U33 CAPTAIN MOR 11P (D,F,G,S) Mrs C Hurst 13-12-0 G Hanmer (7)
6 PP1P HIGH DEGREE 13P (G) M Bent 7-12-0 Mr G Barfoot-Saunt (7)
7 PP13 MOVING FORCE 11P (G,S) D Williams 8-12-0 J Tudor (7)
8 0U34 PARSONS SON 11 (D,F) S R Griffiths 10-12-0 S Griffiths (7)
9 -4PP SOLICITOR'S CHOICE 11 (F,S) A Thomas 12-12-0 R Thornber (7)
10 P-33 THE COMMUNICATOR 11 (B,S) J Peacock 9-12-0 B Pollock (7)

1-2 Wild Illusion, 4-1 Solar Green, 10-1 Great Gusto, Captain Mor, 25-1 others.

8.20 TOM CORRIE MEMORIAL HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,415: 3m 1f 110yd) (9)

1 36P4 WASHINGTON HEIGHTS 11 (B,F,G) C Mann 6-11-10 M A Fitzgerald
2 34F4 ACCESS SUN 11 (F,S) J King 8-10-7 G Upton
3 6503 SIR CRUSTY 7 (D,F,G,S) O O'Neill 13-10-4 P Maddock (7)
4 P-06 SUEZ CANAL 46 (S) F Jordan 6-10-4 J Lodder
5 3213 THE HUMBLE TILLER 15 (F,G,S) D Gandolfo 12-10-1 Miss S Mitchell (7)
6 0004 TIGER CLAW 7 (B,F,G) A Barrow 9-10-0 B Clifford
7 00P3 IT'S DELICIOUS 23 Mrs T Pilkington 9-10-0 G Hogan (5)
8 5306 DOCTOR DUNKLIN 27 (F) Mrs V Ward 6-10-0 R Davis
9 6631 TENBIT 11 (F) N Twiston-Davies 5-10-0 (7ex) C Llewellyn

6-4 Tenbit, 3-1 Washington Heights, 5-1 Access Sun, 7-1 The Humble Tiller, 12-1 Sir Crusty, 14-1 Tiger Claw, 16-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Miss J Pidgeon, 3 winners from 5 runners, 60%; Mrs J Renfree-Barons, 3 from 6, 50%; Miss H Knight, 8 from 54, 14.8%; T Forster, 7 from 60, 11.7%; R Price, 5 from 43, 11.6%; N Twiston-Davies, 10 from 92, 10.9%.

JOCKEYS: Mr J Trice-Rolph, 3 winners from 5 rides, 60%; M A Fitzgerald, 9 from 44, 20.5%; W Marston, 9 from 61, 14.8%; C Llewellyn, 8 from 62, 12.9%.

PERTH

THUNDERER
2.20 William Tell. 2.55 Emral Miss. 3.25 Unholy Alliance. 4.00 Well Appointed. 4.30 Vicaridge. 5.00 Thursday Night.

GOING: GOOD SIS

2.20 HILLTOWN PROPERTY COMPANY JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (£2,788: 2m 110yd) (9 runners)

1 1210 WILLIAM TELL 22 (D,F,G) M Hammond 11-7 P Niven
2 6254 TWIN FALLS 35 (G) G Moore 11-4 J Callaghan
3 041 POMORIE 2 (G) J Payne 10-13 F Leahy (5)
4 21 T O D MAMMA'S 11 (F) J Oliver 10-13 S Melrose (7)
5 0340 EXPLORE MONDIAL 21 (V) T Dyer 10-12 Peter Hobbs
6 6 GINZA LIGHTS 15 K Bailey 10-12 N Williamson
7 0P RING OF THE TILL 48 Mrs D Thomson 10-12 T Reed
8 00 STASH THE CASH 16F T Dyer 10-12 A Linton (7)
9 5 PEGGY GORDON 25 Mrs D Thomson 10-7 L O'Hara

6-4 William Tell, 5-2 Twin Falls, 5-1 T O D Mamma's, 6-1 Pomorie, 8-1 others.

2.55 CAMPBELL, BOATH CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,827: 2m 4f 110yd) (9)

1 414P IRISH FLASHER 164 (V,D,F) J Jefferson 8-11-10 M Newton (5)
2 6UU0 ASTRAC TRIO 17 (G) P Monteith 5-11-9 S Melrose (5)
3 0135 PALM HOUSE 195 (B,C,D,F,G,S) J Hellens 10-11-9 A Larnach
4 05-U MR FENWICK 133 (F,G,S) J Eyre 11-11-7 J Burke
5 0P53 EMRAL MISS 11 G Richards 7-11-1 B Harding
6 /31- STRONG FANCY 576 (F,G) S Kettlewell 12-11-0 Mark Roberts (5)
7 5P24 BRILLIANT DISGUISE 24 P Monteith 6-10-11 G Cahill (5)
8 8050 KAREN'S LADY LUCK 27 M Hammond 5-10-10 Kate Sellars (5)
9 0005 MISTROY 11 Miss M Milligan 5-10-6 G Lee

7-4 Palm House, 9-2 Emral Miss, 6-1 Irish Flasher, 7-1 Strong Fancy, 8-1 Mr Fenwick, Brilliant Disguise, 10-1 Karen's Lady Luck, 12-1 others.

3.25 SUN LIFE OF CANADA HANDICAP CHASE
(£7,100: 3m) (8)

1 -FP0 WIND FORCE 20 (D,F,G) G Richards 10-11-11 Richard Guest
2 1144 SIR PETER LELY 22 (V,D,F,G,S) M Hammond 8-11-5 Mr C Bonner (5)
3 -125 BRACKENFIELD 34 (F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 9-11-3 P Niven
4 1122 UNHOLY ALLIANCE 13 (C,F,G,S) K Bailey 8-11-3 N Williamson
5 3261 VELEDA II 13 (D,F,G,S) Mrs S Bramall 8-10-9 J Burke
6 2011 PERSIAN HOUSE 8 (D,F,G,S) J Jefferson 8-10-8 (4ex) M Dwyer
7 -25P DURHAM SUNSET 104 (D,F,G,S) J Johnson 8-10-0 R Supple
8 3U00 CHARLOTTE'S EMMA 13 (F,G,S) Mrs J Goodfellow 8-10-0 B Storey

9-4 Brackenfield, 3-1 Persian House, 7-2 Sir Peter Lely, 6-1 Unholy Alliance, 8-1 Veleda II, 10-1 Wind Force, 12-1 others.

4.00 TOM DYER & CO NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,136: 2m 110yd) (6)

1 4661 WELL APPOINTED 13 (F) B Mactaggart 6-11-10 B Storey
2 141 SARMATIAN 8 (D,F,G) M Hammond 4-11-5 (6ex) N Williamson
3 056R TASHREEF 13 (B) J Birkett 5-10-12 A Jones
4 -504 RACHAEL'S OWEN 76 T Dyer 5-10-6 Peter Hobbs
5 6122 KEEP BATTLING 15 (G) J Goldie 5-10-6 F Leahy (5)
6 03P0 DERWENT LAD 7 M Barnes 6-10-2 P Waggott

5-4 Sarmatian, 9-4 Well Appointed, 7-1 Tashreef, 8-1 Rachael's Owen, Keep Battling, 14-1 Derwent Lad.

4.30 ERNST & YOUNG NOVICES CHASE
(£4,757: 2m 4f 110yd) (7)

1 1P03 NORTH PRIDE 11 (F,S) M Barnes 10-11-7 R Garritty
2 4-12 VICARIDGE 11 (D,F) R Brewis 8-11-7 G Harker
3 120- ANOTHER NICK 17 (F) J Hubbuck 9-11-3 T Reed
4 6P03 BROUGHPARK AZALEA 11 J Birkett 6-11-3 B Harding
5 0/5 JUDICIOUS CAPTAIN 151 (S) J Adam 8-11-3 J Railton
6 0000 WILLIE SPARKLE 8 (F,G,S) Mrs S Bradburne 9-11-3 Mr J Bradburne
7 4UU4 SKI LADY 11 J Charlton 7-10-12 K Johnson

2-1 Vicaridge, 3-1 Another Nick, 5-1 Judicious Captain, 7-1 North Pride, Willie Sparkle, 8-1 Broughpark Azalea, 20-1 Ski Lady.

5.00 PERTH FESTIVAL AULD LANG SYNE OPEN BUMPER NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£2,262: 2m 110yd) (13)

1 CALLERNISH DAN J Edwards 5-11-2 D Bentley
2 6/0 CARRINGTONS HILL 11 J Birkett 6-11-2 L O'Hara
3 KILLBALLY BOY J Johnson 5-11-2 Mr C Bonner (5)
4 0 NORMANS PROFIT 6 W Young 5-11-2 R Murphy (7)
5 40 PACIFIC WAR 11 J Eyre 6-11-2 Richard Guest
6 TIDEBROOK K Bailey 5-11-2 N Williamson
7 52 TILLYBOY 53 Mrs M Reveley 5-11-2 P Niven
8 SKYE WEDDING J Barclay 6-10-11 A Thornton
9 TAPPIETOURIE P Monteith 6-10-11 T Jenks
10 0 THROMEDOWNSOMETING 6 Mrs D Thomson 5-10-11 J Supple (5)
11 ARDENTIUM G Richards 4-10-10 B Harding (5)
12 THE MICKLETONIAN F Beaumont 4-10-10 R Supple
13 423 THURSDAY NIGHT 11 Jimmy Fitzgerald 4-10-10 E Callaghan (7)

9-4 Tillyboy, 7-2 Tidebrook, 6-1 Callernish Dan, Ardentium, 8-1 The Mickletonian, 10-1 Thursday Night, Killbally Boy, 20-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: K Bailey, 10 winners from 24 runners, 41.7%; Mrs M Reveley, 20 from 51, 39.2%; M Hammond, 20 from 69, 29.0%; S Kettlewell, 4 from 15, 26.7%; Jimmy Fitzgerald, 4 from 17, 23.5%; J Goldie, 3 from 13, 23.1%.

JOCKEYS: N Williamson, 10 winners from 30 rides, 33.3%; P Niven, 28 from 87, 32.2%; Peter Hobbs, 8 from 31, 25.8%; M Dwyer, 18 from 77, 23.4%; L O'Hara, 12 from 62, 19.4%; A Thornton, 3 from 17, 17.6%.

POINT-TO-POINT RESULTS

COTSWOLD (Andoversford) Hunt: Close Escape (P Neuth, 2-1). 2, Starky Only 2 fin. 5 ran. Confined: 1, Granville Grill (J Deutsch, 6-4 jt fav); 2, Shannald; 3, Answers Please. 14 ran. Ladies: 1, Madam Advocate (Ms S Duckett, 3-1); 2, Phelioff; 3, One More Knight. 11 ran. Open: 1, Tompet (R Hicks, 5-2); 2, January Don; 3, Lost Fortune. 6 ran. Inter: 1, Severn Invader (H Wheeler, Evens fav); 2, Roaming Shadow; 3, The Last Mistress. 7 ran. Maiden: 1, Big Archie (M Traung, 7-1); 2, Bilbo Baggins; 3, Evenlode. 18 ran.

HAYDON (Hexham) Hunt: Void race. Confined: 1, Buckle It Up (D Mactaggart, 8-4); 2, Mirandinha; 3, Little Glen. 5 ran. Restricted: 1, Fowling Piece (Ms L Horner, 7-1); finished alone. 4 ran. Open: 1, Fast Study (S Robinson, 1-4 fav); 2, Valestay; 3, Spanish Accent. 3 ran. Ladies: 1, Clare Lad (Ms J Thurlow, 5-2); 2, Jack Of Clubs. Only 2 finished. 3 ran. Mdn I: 1, Rhine River (C Wilson, 5-2); 2, Terracotta Army. Only 2 fin. 6 ran. Mdn II: 1, Confident Vote (P Jenkins, 4-1); 2, Todcrag. Only 2 fin. 8 ran.

TEME VALLEY (Brampton Bryan) Hunt: 1, Obey King (A Brown, 4-5 fav); 2, Seven Cruise. Only 2 fin. 4 ran. Confined: 1, Leigh Boy (D Duggan, 5-1); 2, Lord Crosby; 3, Ronans Birthday. 13 ran. Open: 1, Another Cruise (J Bambridge, 6-4); 2, Homme D'Affaire; 3, Kellys Pal. 7 ran. Ladies: 1, Hornblower (Ms C Burgess, 10-1); 2, Couture Tights; 3, Lakenheather. 8 ran. Rest I: 1, Absolute Absolutum (A Price, 5-2 fav); 2, The Phoeno; 3, Sisterly. 13 ran. Rest II: 1, The Rum Mariner (J Jukes, 7-2); 2, Ollardale; 3, Emilys Trust. 11 ran. Mdn I: 1, Corn Exchange (D Duggan, 6-1); 2, Penarth; 3, Highway Five. 13 ran. Mdn II: 1, Lies Le Bucktold (C Campbell, 12-1); 2, Against The Agent; 3, Priory Rose. 17 ran.

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Baseball's war reaches an uneasy peace

David Miller finds a new cynicism in Atlanta as America's game restarts

When in Georgia, do as the Georgians do. So I went to watch Greg Maddux, the best pitcher of a ball since David bowled Goliath, as fast as Curtly Ambrose and three times as accurate.

He must be good. The Atlanta Braves pay him £3.33 million a year.

There were, however, many who refused to go on Wednesday. About 30,000, in fact. The attendance at Fulton County Stadium was less than half the 58,000 capacity. This was the first day of the new season after an eight-month strike and a lot of baseball followers, old and young, feel wounded, rejected and resentful.

"We're mad at them, we feel bad and determined not to go for a while," a formerly fanatical Atlantan told me. Grudgingly, he admitted that perhaps in another month or so, some with short memories would be back, the scent of the narcotic too irresistible.

This ball game, remember, represents the sporting, indeed the social, soul of the nation. The game made America's character, right down to the smallest hamlet. For 40 years, Babe Ruth was every male's role model.

The strike, a deadlock between Major League Baseball owners and the players' union, cancelled the so-called World Series last October — for the first time in 90 years — just when 1994 was being called a golden era. The emotional pain for many was deep. Imagine cancelling the World Cup last year just before the quarter-finals.

Cal Ripken Jr, of the Baltimore Orioles, joins baseball's public relations drive by signing autographs before the game with the Kansas City Royals on the first day of the new season

Forgiveness will come slowly. Tom Glavine, another Atlanta pitcher who happened also to be union spokesman, was booed during preliminary introductions.

The Braves' practice match on Tuesday drew only 8,000. Some attendances on Wednesday were satisfactory, but the cynicism exhibited by owners and players is now abroad among the public. Ticket prices may be low (£6), but, with refreshments and parking, a game can cost a family of four about £60.

Which side was justified in this slaughter of a favourite pastime, which lost the 28 clubs of the two leagues, National and American, more than £30 million, never mind that they saved £170 million on salaries? Sympathies are divided — so acutely even within some families that they cannot discuss it among themselves.

When Fred McGriff hit the Braves' first two home runs of the season, the applause had a slightly hollow ring. What stopped you last August, Fred, the echo asked? Labour unions are surely for exploited mine workers or trash collectors, not millionaire sportsmen. Of the league's 800 professionals, 118 earn more than $3 million, 144 more than $1 million, the "poorest" third between $100,000 and $500,000.

The owners wanted a wage cap, though they say there are no poor owners. Owners are expedient. Long ago, the Dodgers were moved from New York to Los Angeles, the Braves from Boston to Atlanta via Milwaukee. So why spare the fans any sentiment?

Well, baseball is no different from any other sport. It is about fantasy and glory. About winners. It moves minds. As young boys hurried to their seats on Wednesday, past the statue of Hank Aaron, who, in 1974, surpassed Ruth's all-time record of 714 home runs, they dreamed of future heroes. Of today's.

I did not have a seat in line with Maddux's arm, but he is a phenomenon. He remembers where he pitched a ball three years ago to dismiss a particular hitter. As Leo Mazzone, the Braves' pitching coach, said: "He can throw you a strike [a ball ruled hittable by the umpire] and not give you anything to hit. He's that precise." He was again on Wednesday. For three years in succession, he has won the pitchers' award, the Cy Young — last year with an average twice as good as the next man.

It is an uneasy peace. The contracts are last year's; the union cites a hundred violations of the National Labour Relations Board; the players may strike again. The owners are tough: either rich club men such as Jerry Reinsdorf, of the Chicago White Sox (also owner of the Chicago Bulls, Michael Jordan's basketball team) or Bud Selig, of the Milwaukee Brewers, who is also acting commissioner.

The players are so commercially hard-headed they make the likes of Alan Shearer or Paul Gascoigne look amateurish. Earning £150 a minute, they still charge youngsters for autographs. The avarice is temporarily suspended. Both sides suddenly recognise they need public confidence. There is a £6 million marketing campaign to recover lost ground. During training, there has been free admission. And, yes, free autographs.

It is difficult to tell whether the players are sanguine about last year's lost opportunities, or merely cold-hearted. "It was a bad year to have a good year," Ken Griffey Jr, of Seattle, who was on schedule to beat Roger Maris's season record of 61 home runs, said. Matt Williams, of San Francisco, who was likewise on that schedule, said: "I haven't gone to bed one night thinking of what might have been."

Not like millions of their fans. Atlanta beat the Giants 12-5. There may be a settlement. But don't bank on it.

Old Masters, old tricks

Fake. *World Service, 6.15pm.*

The proverb that kept springing to mind as I listened to Rosalind Yarde's report on artists who have faked paintings and drawings is: imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. I am surprised nobody uses it tonight. The British painter Eric Hebborn almost does. He says that when he tackles his "in the style of" paintings, deception is not his main aim. What he hopes is that his imitations are good enough to be mistaken for Old Masters. He leaves the rest to the experts. "The bottom line is — Leonardo can do without you, but you cannot do without Leonardo". *Fake*'s most startling disclosure is that all four people who own a copy of the *Mona Lisa* believe theirs is the original.

Songs of the Ukrainian Earth. *Radio 3, 4.30pm.*

Here is yet another example of Radio 3's dedication to the preservation of minority cultures. The tradition of village singing in central Ukraine is nearly 1,000 years old. The Tartars, Turks, tsars and Stalin all did their worst to stamp it out, fearing it would fuel nationalist aspirations. It survives — but only just. There is only one Ukrainian village where a particular song about an army conscript is still sung. Adrian Cleasby took his tape-recorder to the Poltava region of Ukraine to record a handful of these songs while there are still villagers left to remember them. Some are hauntingly sad. Others, such as the hymn to vodka and its vitalising impact, must surely enliven many a glum Ukrainian night.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. 4.00am Dave Pearce 6.30 Chris Evans 9.00 Kevin Greening 12.00 Lisa I'Anson including at 12.30-12.45pm Newsbeat; and at 1.15 The Net 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, including at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Pete Tong's Essential Selection 10.00 John Peel 1.00am The 1FM Rap Show

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 6.15 Pause for Thought 8.05 Wake Up to Wogan 9.15 Pause for Thought 10.00 Ken Bruce 11.30 Anne Robinson 2.00pm Chris Stuart 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.30 John Dunn 7.00 Hoax! 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night 8.20 Interval: Mark Ashford, guitar, gives a recital recorded at Fairfield last November 9.30 Listen to the Band 10.00 Iain Anderson with the Radio 2 Art Programme from Inverness 12.05am Digby Fairweather, with Jazz Notes 1.00 Charles Nove

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl at 6.55 and 7.55 Racing Preview 9.35 The Magazine 12.00 Midday with Mair, including at 12.34pm Moneycheck 2.05 Ruscoe on Five 4.00 Nationwide, with Julian Worricker 7.00 News Extra, including at 7.20 the day's sport in full 7.35 Parkinson on Sport 9.05 Now the Good News 9.35 Stop Press 10.05 Entertainment Superhighway 11.00 Night Extra including at 11.15 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05 Up All Night, with Richard Dallyn

TALK RADIO

6.00am Samantha Mesh, Sean Bolger 10.00 Scott Chisholm 1.00pm Anna Raeburn 3.00 Tommy Boyd 7.00 Maurice Dee, Carol McGiffen 10.00 Caesar 1.00am Al Kelly

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. 5.00am Newsdesk 5.30 Europe (MW only: Off the Shelf 5.45 Folk) 6.00 Newsday 6.30 Andy Kershaw (MW only: Europe Today) 7.00 News 7.15 The World Today 7.30 To Believe or Not to Believe 8.00 News 8.15 On the Move 8.30 Science 9.00 News (MW only: News in German) 9.10 Words of Faith (MW only: News in German) 9.15 Music Review 10.00 News and Business 10.15 John Dunn 10.45 Sport 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 BBC English 11.45 Off the Shelf Noon Newsdesk 12.30 Meridian 1.00 News and Business (MW only: News in German) 1.15 Britain 1.30 Science 2.00 News 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Multitrack 4.00 News 4.05 Sport 4.15 BBC English 4.30 Focus on Faith 5.00 News 5.15 Music Review 6.00 News and Business 6.15 Fake: See Choice 6.30 World Today (MW only: News in German) 6.45 Sport (MW only: News in German) 7.00 Newsdesk 7.30 Politics 8.00 News 9.00 Europe 9.30 Outlook 9.55 Faith 10.00 News and Business 10.15 Britain 10.30 Multitrack 11.00 News 11.30 World Today 11.45 Farming Midnight News 12.10am Science 12.15 John Peel 12.45 Sport 1.00 News 1.30 From the Weeklies 1.45 Britain 2.00 News and Press 2.15 Seven Days 2.30 Jazz 2.45 Books 3.00 News 3.30 Politics 4.00 News 4.15 Sport 4.30 Vintage Chart

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susannah Simons 2.00pm Lunchtime Concerto 3.00 Jamie Crick 6.00 Classic Reports 7.00 Classic Verdict 8.00 Evening Concert 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00am Mark Griffiths

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Nick Abbot 7.30 Paul Coyte 10.00 Janey Lee Grace 2.00-6.00am Howard Pearce

RADIO 3

6.30am **Open University:** Maths: Formula Iteration

6.55 Weather

7.00 **On Air:** Schubert (Moments musicaux: in F minor; in A flat); Torelli (Concerto in E minor for four violins); Liszt (Les préludes); 8.05 Lyadov (A Musical Snuffbox, Op 32); Mozart (Adagio and Allegro in F minor); Fauré (Violin Sonata in E minor, Op 108)

9.00 **Composer of the Week:** Stravinsky (r)

10.00 **Musical Encounters:** Sullivan (Overture: The Gondoliers); Charles Wood (A Century's Penultimate); 10.10 *Artist of the Week:* Ton Koopman, organ. Buxtehude (Fugue in C); 10.14 Ippolitov-Ivanov (In the Manger); Wassenaer (Concerto Armonico No 1 in G); 10.30 Stravinsky (The Soldier's Tale); 11.19 Walton (Te Deum: Huddersfield Choral Society, BBC Philharmonic under Jane Glover); Telemann (Quartet in G, Tafelmusik); Smetana (Blanik, Ma Vlast)

12.00 **The BBC Orchestras:** BBC Concert Orchestra under Murray Stewart. Busser (Marche de fête); Debussy (Petite suite); Franck (Rédemption); Duruflé and Roger-Ducasse (r)

1.00pm **St David's Hall Lunchtime Recital:** Nikolai Demidenko, piano. Schumann (Papillons, Op 2; Des Abends; Aufschwung, Fantasiestücke, Op 12); Beethoven (Piano Sonata in A flat, Op 110)

2.00 **Schools:** The Song Tree: Melody Muddle's Music Machine 2.15 Together Stories 2.30 Dance Workshop 2.50 Poetry Corner

3.00 **Mining the Archive:** Sir Malcolm Sargent. Recordings made while Sargent was principal conductor with the BBC Symphony Orchestra. Elgar (The Wand of Youth: Suite No 2); Vaughan Williams (Romance for harmonica and strings); Sibelius (Symphony No 2 in D)

4.20 **Fairest Isle: Turns of the Century:** Peter Nichols celebrates Billy Bennett

4.30 **Songs of the Ukrainian Earth:** See Choice

5.00 **The Music Machine:** Liverpool a capella group Sense of Sound

5.15 **In Tune:** Holst (Jupiter, The Planets); Chopin (Ballade No 3 in A flat, Op 47); Bruch (Violin Concerto No 1 in G minor)

7.45 **Sonorities 95:** Northern Ireland's festival of 20th-century music opens with a BBC Invitation Concert from the Ulster Hall, Belfast. Dmitri Alexeev, piano; Ulster Orchestra under Andras Ligeti. Ives, Bartók; 8.35 *Through Thick and Thin:* Michael Dervan, music critic of the *Irish Times*, talks to John Toal; Ian Wilson, Copland

9.40 **Each Morning Once More Seamless:** Les Murray reads more new poems

9.50 **Hear and Now:** Sarah Walker and Robert Ziegler present the first edition of a new music programme

12.00-1.00am **How to Make a Musical:** Composers. Don Black on composing (r)

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today incl 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 7.25, 8.35 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.58 Weather

9.00 **News** 9.05 **Desert Island Discs:** The composer George Lloyd talks to Sue Lawley (r)

9.45 **Feedback:** Chris Dunkley of the *Financial Times* airs listeners' comments

10.00 **News; The Home Front** (FM only): Seven pictures of Britain during the Second World War

10.00 **An Act of Worship** (LW only)

10.15 **When Christ Calls a Man** (LW only): Readings from the works of Dietrich Bonhoeffer

10.30 **Woman's Hour:** Introduced from Manchester by Ruth Pitt. Serial: *An Awfully Big Adventure*, read by the author, Beryl Bainbridge (5/8)

11.30 **The Natural History Programme**, presented by Joanna Pinnock

12.00 **News; You and Yours**, with Daire Brehan

12.25pm **The Food Programme**, presented by Derek Cooper 12.55 Weather

1.00 **The World at One**, with Nick Clarke

1.40 **The Archers** (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast

2.00 **News; Classic Serial:** Huntingtower. John Buchan's tale of romance and adventure (2/3)

3.00 **News; The Afternoon Shift**, with Laurie Taylor

4.00 **News** 4.05 **Kaleidoscope:** Tim Marlowe sees an exhibition chosen by Sir Ernst Gombrich to reflect the theme "shadow" and visits new public art in Newcastle

4.45 **Short Story: It Could Be You.** Jonathan Keeble reads J.X. Brendan's story

5.00 **PM** 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather

6.00 **Six O'Clock News**

6.30 **Going Places:** Inspirational ideas for the weekend ahead with David Stafford

7.00 **News** 7.05 **The Archers**

7.20 **Pick of the Week:** Christopher Serle with highlights of the past week's BBC radio and television

8.05 **Any Questions?** Jonathan Dimbleby chairs a topical discussion in Ross-on-Wye

8.50 **Law in Action:** Marcel Berlins examines the issues shaping the law

9.15 **Letter from America**, by Alistair Cooke

9.30 **Kaleidoscope Feature:** Twenty years after the liberation of Vietnam, photographer Tim Page returned to the land that made his career in the 1960s as he photographed and reported on the civil war in South East Asia 9.59 Weather

10.00 **The World Tonight**, with Isabel Hilton

10.45 **Book at Bedtime: A Child Possessed.** R.C. Hutchinson's story abridged and read by Geoffrey Beevers (10/12)

11.00 **Week Ending:** A satirical review of the week's news

11.25 **Tea Junction**, with Patrick Hannan and guests

11.45 **Today in Parliament**

12.00-12.45am **News** incl 12.27 Weather 12.33 Shipping Forecast 12.45 As World Service (LW only)

RADIO 1: FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2: FM 88-90.2. RADIO 3: FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4: 198kHz/1515m; FM 92.4-94.6; [illegible]. RADIO 5: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. LONDON RADIO: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. CAPITAL: 1548kHz/194m; FM 95.8. [illegible] WORLD SERVICE: MW 648kHz/463m; LW 198Khz (12.45am-5.20am). CLASSIC FM: FM 100-102. VIRGIN: MW 1215, [illegible]. TALK RADIO: MW 1089, 1053kHz. Listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Maxey

Conner adds glorious finale to Cup comeback

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL IN SAN DIEGO

Conner holds the Citizen Cup aloft after winning the right to defend the America's Cup with his win off San Diego

DENNIS CONNER completed an extraordinary comeback on Wednesday night to win the right to defend the America's Cup for a record fifth time. He overcome a bad start, a near-hopeless four-minute, half-mile deficit on the last leg of his race, a blown spinnaker and Leslie Egnot's women's team to take the winning gun by a 52sec margin and claim outright success in the Citizen Cup defender series.

If roles had been reversed, there would have been a fairy-tale finish with the women on *Mighty Mary* going on to face a sudden-death match against Kevin Mahaney's *Young America* crew, who, until these topsy-turvy finals, had been consistently faster than their rivals. Instead, it is Conner, with the reputation as the man people love to hate, who now goes forward to compete against Russell Coutts and his *Team New Zealand* crew.

DETAILS

Citizen Cup (defender series): Stars & Stripes bt Mighty Mary by 52sec.

Final standings (win/loss): 1, Stars and Stripes 6-2 (qualifies for America's Cup); 2, Young America 5-5; 3, Mighty Mary 4-5.

Remarkable though the result was, it was the women who lost rather than Conner, who readily accepts that his *Stars & Stripes* was the slowest of the defence yachts, who won. Egnot and her crew, who have repeatedly complained of abusive gestures and foul remarks from *Stars & Stripes* whenever their yachts are in close proximity, had Conner in trouble and could have ended his remarkable America's Cup career.

Mighty Mary began by pushing *Stars & Stripes* over the line early to gain an immediate 24sec advantage and slowly extended this to a 4min 8sec lead at the start of the fateful final leg. The women's subsequent downfall was not due to boat-speed or crewing ability, but to the the man the syndicate's head, Bill Koch, brought in to replace the woman tactician, JJ Isler, and strengthen experience at the back of the boat. David Dellenbaugh broke the cardinal rule in match-racing by failing to get his crew to cover their opponent.

Instead of staying between their rival and the next mark, in this case the finishing line, Dellenbaugh took *Mighty Mary* out to the left, where she ran into a hole in the wind, leaving *Stars & Stripes* to sail round them. At one critical point, he had Egnot steering the boat almost back to where they had come from in a frantic effort to recover.

Paul Cayard, the helmsman on *Stars & Stripes*, sensed his crew had a chance when rounding the final mark: "Keep your heads in the game," he urged his crewmates. "Don't give up. We still have a shot." He was right. When the two yachts came together, two-thirds of the way down the leg, Conner's crew had the advantage that even a ripped spinnaker could not take away.

"It's tough to lose like we did today," a bitterly disappointed Egnot admitted afterwards. "We should probably have gybed earlier and covered. Who would have known?"

Conner would. He made the same mistake on the final leg in the last race against Alan Bond's *Australia II* during the 1983 America's Cup. The Australians rounded the bottom mark a yawning 57sec behind Conner's 12 metre yacht, *Liberty*, but Conner went one way up the last beat, *Australia II* went the other and won by 14sec. The America's Cup was lost and it was a lesson Conner, now competing in his sixth challenge, will never forget.

The outcome might have been very different had the women been listened to a week ago. At a meeting with their coaches, when Dellenbaugh was not present, they made a unanimous call to bring Isler back on board as tactician.

Koch, the millionaire who beat Conner in the defence trials three years ago and went on to defend the Cup, blamed himself as much as *Mighty Mary*'s bad call on the water: "Our only failing was me," he said. "I am exceptionally proud of the women and what they have achieved, but I delayed the start of this campaign by a year. If we had the extra time, the crew would have had that much more experience and the boat would have been a little faster."

Conner put his crew's victory down to "maturity and experience" and, looking to the future, admitted: "I don't think anyone who is in touch with reality looks forward to defending the America's Cup with this boat [*Stars & Stripes*]. It has been a bitter battle to get to these finals, but I hope that we can now all pull together" — making a thinly-disguised plea to Koch to borrow *Mighty Mary* for the Cup.

Koch was non-committal: "I'm a patriot at heart and we will see what we can do, but first I will read up the history and see what other beaten defenders have done in the past," he said.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 37

BANESMAN

(c) A murderer, pseudo-archaic rendering of the Old Norse *banamaor*, *bani* bane + *maor* man. "He prayed, not only for himself and his friends, but still more for his foes and banesmen."

BONHAM

(a) A sucking-pig, dialect variant in Ulster and Connaught of the Irish *banbh* a pig. "Since you took up your lunchtime excursions to your health club and fitness centre, Mary Ann, your figure has become one of which a bonham could be proud."

CONNIPTION

(b) An charming American name for a fainting-fit, a hysterical outburst and a general emotional explosion. Mary McCarthy, *The Group*, 1963: "Conny Storey's fiancé was working as an office boy, and her family, instead of having conniptions, was taking it very calmly."

FASCIOLA

(c) In full *fasciola cinerea*, a thin layer of grey matter that forms the posterior continuation of the dentate gyrus in the hippocampal formation of the brain, from the Latin *fasciola* a small bandage.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Bf7! c1Q 2 Rxc1 Rxc1 3 g6 and Black must give up material to deal with the threat of g7+. He played 3 ... Bxg6 4 Bxg6, but this position is an easy draw for White.

Argentina spring a big surprise

FROM DAVID RHYS JONES
IN DURBAN

THE defeat of the South Africa four by opponents from Argentina in the Atlantic Rim Games at Durban yesterday was a reminder that bowls must be the most unpredictable of all games. In South Africa, one of the strongest bowling nations, around 25,000 women bowlers clamour for places in the national side. Having won the triples and pairs events at the Games last week, the host country appeared all set to effect a clean sweep in the singles and fours.

In stark contrast, Argentina boasts only five member clubs, most founded by the British in and around Buenos Aires, has only 200 bowlers to choose from and has never achieved anything of note in international competition. Yesterday, however, in the fifth round of round-robin matches, they had their moment of glory. Two moments, to be precise.

Trailing 15-22 with two ends to play, their skip, Susana de Cantarini, took out a South African bowl for a sensational count of seven, which tied the scores at 22-22. Then, on the last end, she trailed the jack away from the South African shot and picked up a single for a 23-22 victory, which has changed the complexion of these championships.

Scotland, who have gone through trials and tribulations since Sarah Gourlay, their best player, fell and injured her wrist the day before play started, took their chance and moved into the lead in the race for the fours championship, beating England and Jersey.

In the singles in the sixth round of round-robin, Jo Peacock, of Western Province, got through by the skin of her teeth against Rita Jones, of Wales, after Jones had turned a 13-21 deficit into a 24-22 advantage. A count of three on the 27th end clinched it for the South African.

Other epic singles encounters included Norma Shaw's defeat of Phillis Nolan, Janice Maxwell's win over Val Stead and Merle Swerdlow's unexpected victory over Anne Barber, representing Guernsey. All three matches had a 25-24 scoreline.

☐ Andy Thomson, the defending champion, lost 7-9, 4-9 to Daphne Shaw, of Australia, in the Mazda International Jack High tournament in Sydney.

Results, page 37

هكذا من الأصل

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Seeking justice, and finding dodgy judges

REVIEW

Lynne Truss

Apt that in his first sports investigation, **Fair Game** (Channel 4), Greg Dyke should have chosen the scandal of high-earning professionals barging into amateur competition and wresting sponsorship from the people who need it. Because the thing is, Dyke doesn't need the money either. It raised the question: is Dyke's search for screen glory the equivalent of Torvill and Dean famous bid for the Olympic gold?

Well, some of the similarities were certainly striking. *Fair Game* was a well-constructed and watchable programme (technical mark: 5.8), but I'm afraid it must be marked down for an over-the-top flourish at the end. Dyke sought out the former British champion Justin Lanning, his career so wrecked by Torvill and Dean's return to competition that *he now mops lavatories to fund his skating*. As a result of this clever but blatantly crowd-pleasing manoeuvre, the mark for artistic interpretation is a mere 5.6.

Actually, of course, the whole thing was fascinating. In half an hour, Dyke set out to puncture the national belief that we was robbed, and along the way explain the curious rules by which ice skating is marked. Casting one's mind back to that fateful night, one remembers much talk of prejudiced Russian judges (conjuring a picture of old, dead-eyed blokes in fur hats on a Kremlin balcony); last night, Dyke turned the tables and concentrated on the presence of the one British judge, Mary Parry, who despite everything technically disallowable in Torvill and Dean's "Let's Face the Music", awarded it a perfect 6.

Is it possible that while the British public dropped to its knees thanking Torvill and Dean for inspiring us, they were in fact letting us down? It seems to depend on whether you are a member of the National Ice Skating Association. After the Olympics, Torvill and Dean refused to compete at the World Championships in Japan, which let the side down and led to the split-up of Lanning and Humphreys (the former British number ones). This in turn led to the loss of sponsorship, and inevitably to the mopping of a gents' lavatory by a *disappointed youth*. Ice skating looks frictionless, yet it's a cruel, cruel world.

Judges were all over the place last night, making bad decisions. *Trial and Error* was back again on Channel 4, dismantling the case against a 17-year-old Jason Warr, in prison for murder: *Crown Prosecutor* (BBC1) ended its ten week run with a sensation when the beauteous Nina (Paris Jefferson) muttered "Unbelievable" on hearing the verdict, and was sent to the cells by a gizzardy magistrate. Later, in **Absolutely Fabulous** (BBC1), Edina failed to win the PR's PR Award ("I chose those judges!") and in the best moment of the show, administered summary justice on a married psychology lecturer who'd been bothering Saffy. "I think I left my briefcase," he said, coming back *down the stairs*. With a loud and unexpected WUMP, Edina socked him on the jaw and knocked him down.

The trouble with miscarriage-of-justice programmes is that, however high the level of journalism they attain, they are still journalism. **Trial and Error** has a good track record for uncovering injustice, and last night's story about Jason Warr revealed a prosecution case so flimsy and full of holes that *it wasn't so much a case as a doily*. But when David Jessel interviews dim teenage witnesses who are willing to admit they lied under pressure from the police, doesn't he have a flicker of doubt that they might be lying now, too, because *they are on television*?

Meanwhile, congratulations to **Crown Prosecutor** for keeping its nerve through ten episodes, and never bending to the usual imperatives of the 8.30pm primetime slot — to be funny, interesting, dramatic, or indeed *anything* at all. A programme without qualities is a rare thing in these days of high concept drama. So well done. Last night a tiny chink in the armour appeared when the chastened Nina wore less lipstick in the cells (in *Thunderbirds*, it would be a *replacement head with sweat beads on it*). But by the time she reappeared in court, the high gloss was restored, and *Crown Prosecutor* could seep into oblivion intact.

I seem to have watched five programmes last night. If so, it was a mark of desperation, not zeal. Even *Wildlife on One* about kingfishers was dull. Odd, then, to reach number six and find that — gosh, it was called *Number Six*! That's spooky, isn't it? "Number six, number six!" chanted dead schoolchildren in grey jumpers, their wide eyes unblinking, as if to say, "Yes, we have all been turned into zombies by television, and you are next. You are Number Six!"

The last in ITV's *Chiller* series, **Number Six** starred Kevin McNally as a cop in a northern village baffled by a series of ritualistic child murders, which turned out to be the dastardly work of a mad druid lollipop lady *with a fetish for oak trees*. The village grew hysterical but alas, nobody put two and two together until (of course) she had Kevin McNally's own little boy by the throat and was flashing an enormous blade *in the moonlight*.

Number Six was all tension and full moon (beautifully filmed), but it was a very daft story. Set in a remote village in Albania, it might have made sense, but the idea that *five children could be slaughtered* with a big knife in Yorkshire, with just one local Detective Inspector trying to figure it out — well, it was a tough proposition to swallow. Meanwhile, on the plus side, Simon Schama would have loved it. And the trees were as good as anything in *Crown Prosecutor*.

BBC1

6.00 Business Breakfast (74138)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (31083225)

9.05 Kilroy. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject (s) (8046680)

10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (1131428) **10.05 EastEnders — The Early Days** (r). (Ceefax) (5681503)

10.35 Good Morning with Anne and Nick. Weekday magazine series (s) (8491770)

12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (6575393) **12.05 Pebble Mill** with Gloria Hunniford (s) (2405022) **12.55 Regional News** and weather (69601596)

1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (39916) ***1.30 Neighbours.*** *(Ceefax) (s) (86330954)* ***1.50 Crown Prosecutor*** (r). (Ceefax) (s) (65052225)

2.20 The Flying Doctors. Australian medical drama (r). (Ceefax) (s) (2191645)

3.05 Gourmet Ireland: Country Fare (s) (4342157)

3.35 Cartoon (8935770) **3.45 Dinobabies** (r) (6555916) **4.05 Rugrats** (s) (1985157) **4.30 Round the Twist.** (Ceefax) (s) (3645138)

4.55 Newsround (4974954) **5.05 Blue Peter.** (Ceefax) (s) (4465683)

5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) (s) (406374)

6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (683)

6.30 Regional news magazines (935)

7.00 Wipeout. Game show. (Ceefax) (s) (3570)

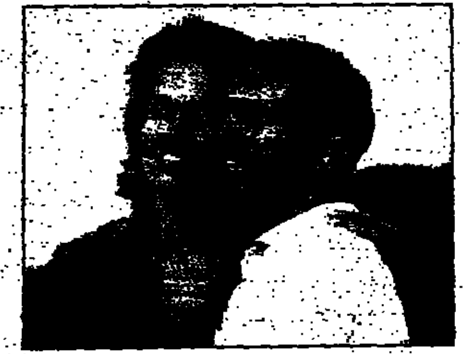
7.30 Tomorrow's World. (Ceefax) (s) (119)

8.00 Lovejoy. Ian McShane stars as the dodgy antiques dealer (r). (Ceefax) (s) (746022)

8.50 TV Heroes. Danny Baker in praise of Bob Harris (r). (Ceefax) (s) (282799)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News *(Ceefax), regional news and weather* (6935)

9.30 999 Special: The Point of No Return. Michael Buerk presents the story of the search for five soldiers trapped in a remote part of the Malaysian jungle. (Ceefax) (s) (911916). **Wales:** Plaid Cymru Broadcast (360729) 9.35 999 Special (943515) 10.25 The Dream (377645) 10.55 Film: The Year of Living Dangerously (83350428) 12.45-2.25 Film: The Spring (145691)



Sigourney Weaver and Mel Gibson (10.20pm)

10.20 FILM: The Year of Living Dangerously (1983) starring Mel Gibson, Sigourney Weaver and, in an Oscar-winning role, Linda Hunt. A drama set in 1965 Indonesia about an Australian television journalist on a dangerous assignment *that becomes more hazardous* after he uncovers vital intelligence during the coup that deposes President Sukarno. Directed by Peter Weir. (Ceefax) (613393)

12.15am FILM: The Spring (1989) starring Dack Rambo, Shari Shattuck and Gedde Watanabe. Adventure yarn about two archaeologists searching for a mythical fountain of youth and an avaricious industrialist who wants to exploit the spring's magical powers. Directed by John D. Patterson. (Ceefax) (528875) ***1.50 Weather***

BBC2

6.20 Open University: Health Visiting and the Family (3319886) **6.45** Maths Modelling (7158003) **7.10** Technology (5755428) **7.35** Child Development: Attachment (4644954)

8.00 Breakfast News. (Ceefax and signing) (7306022)

8.15 Germany 1925-32 (b/w). The six 1932 elections (1433461)

8.20 A Big Country. *A look at Australian belly dancers* (r) (5307916) **8.50 A Week to Remember.** Pathé newsclips from 40 years ago this week (5464916)

9.00 Daytime on Two. EDucational programmes. Plus, for children, **10.00-10.25** Playdays (3081729) **2.00** Joshua Jones (31554886) **2.10** Open View (82245664)

2.15 World Snooker. David Vine and Dougie Donnelly introduce live semi-final coverage of the Embassy world professional championship from the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield. Includes **News** and weather at ***3.00*** and ***3.50*** *(47591138)*

6.00 Captain Scarlet and the Mysterons. Science-fiction adventures (r). (Ceefax) (7252312)

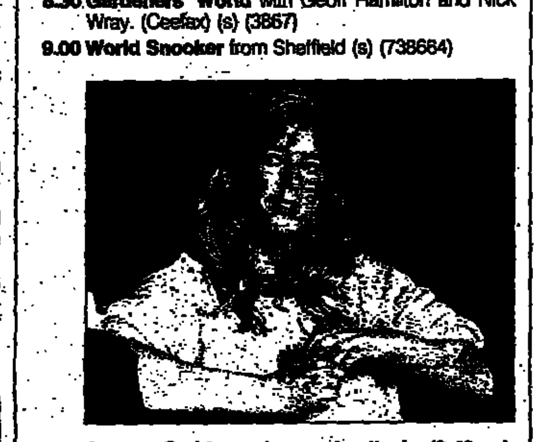
7.15 The O-Zone. Pop music magazine (s) (910515)

7.30 The Rock 'n' Roll Years — The Eighties. The headline stories of 1982. (Ceefax) (s) (461)

8.00 Top Gear Motorsport. Tony Mason reports on the Welsh Hill rally and Tiff Needell is in South Australia *for the Tooheys 1000. Plus an archive feature from* 1970 on the death of Jochen Rindt. (Ceefax) (s) (4732)

8.30 Gardeners' World with Geoff Hamilton and Nick Wray. (Ceefax) (s) (3867)

9.00 World Snooker from Sheffield (s) (738664)



Imogen Stubbs on her panic attacks (9.40pm)

9.40 The Enemy Within. Imogen Stubbs talks about the panic attacks *she managed to cure herself of*. (Ceefax) (771312)

10.00 Have I Got News for You. Angus Deayton, Ian Hislop and Paul Merton are joined by Eddie Izzard and Michael Winner (s) (73225)

10.30 Newsnight with Peter Snow. (Ceefax) (508886)

11.15 Fantasy Football League. Joining David Baddiel and Frank Skinner are Michael Grade and Jo Brand (s) (116138). **Wales:** Plaid Cymru Broadcast (2000022) 11.20 Welsh Lobby (607751) 11.50 Fantasy Football (227799) 12.20am Snooker (7786894) 1.35-2.35 Later with Jools Holland (6163287)

11.45 World Snooker introduced by David Vine (s) (839138) **12.55am Weather** (3815829)

1.00 Later with Jools Holland. Live music series. The guests include Oasis, Mary Chapin Carpenter and Zap Mama (r) (s) (9809894). Ends at **2.05**

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CHOICE

Young, single and in New York (C4, 9.30pm)

Friends
Channel 4, 9.30pm

Friends takes the process of drinking espresso, and watering the cheeseplant, and turns it into a very funny half-hour sit-com. This season's big hit in America, it follows six New York twentysomethings, *all at various stages of the dating game. The characters* (especially the wonderful Ross, played by *NYPD Blue*'s David Schwimmer) all babble like they've swallowed *Catcher in the Rye*, but are likeable enough for it not to matter. Future plots concern all those mundane dilemmas of unmarried young people — career crises, bad ground coffee and unexpected parental visits — but this curtain-raiser sees a new recruit to the gang. On her wedding day. And Monica, *the central character, on a date with* Paul "the wine guy".

Jack and Jeremy's Police 4
Channel 4, 10.00pm

Yet another spoof of *Crimewatch*, this time hosted by stand-ups Jack Dee and Jeremy Hardy. *Police 4* brings *crime* from the street directly into the living room as Special Constables Dee and Hardy broadcast directly from the sharp end — Hedlow Police HQ. Lots of sitting around on the corners of desks, as viewers are *asked to phone in with information, and enrol as* Special Constables in a unique interactive ceremony. The pair meet victims of major fraud, including unwary holidaymakers who have parted with their life savings in return for the ownership of Spain, and a *Mafia hitman on the witness protection scheme* who is settling into his new life as a waiter in a Devon tearoom. Fake vomit, silly songs and bad accents, but enough good ideas to make it worth watching.

Tomorrow's World Special
BBC1, 7.30pm

In 1985, Maggie Philbin demonstrated new technology for measuring bone density. Ironically, had she tested the equipment on herself, she could have made a *crucial* discovery. The former *Tomorrow's World* presenter has since learnt that she is suffering from osteoporosis, the wasting disease that causes bone fractures and deformity in later life. Tonight she sets out to discover why she became vulnerable: how, with *more* knowledge before the age of 30, she could have prevented it. Shahnaz Pakravan flies into one of America's largest military bases to discover how, one day, ground-based telescopes will be able to see as clearly as the Hubble.

Gourmet Ireland
BBC1, 3.05pm (not Scotland)

Since Paul and Jeanne Rankin's last culinary tour of Ireland, Courvoisier has voted their Belfast restaurant the best in the UK. *But their search for new tastes and* flavours goes on, and they set off on new travels at Lough Neagh, fishing for pollen, one of Ireland's finest freshwater fish. They devise a dish of pollen in oatmeal, served with a sorrel cream, and suggest a *complementary* pear and walnut upside-down cake. Maps at the ready, Paul and Jeanne then head off for Bleary, home to Ireland's only breeder of wild boar. Jillian Acheson has been feeding the growing *demand for three years now, and looks on as her meat is cooked* up with candied shallots. **Richard Johnson**

CARLTON/LWT

6.00 GMTV (3005454)

9.25 Chain Letters with Ted Robbins (s) (2897480)

9.55 London Today (Teletext) and weather (7571028)

10.00 The Time...the Place (s) (4493867)

10.35 This Morning. Weekday family magazine presented by Lucy Meacock and Steve Penk (76862374) **12.20pm London Today** *(Teletext) and weather* (6571577)

12.30 News *(Teletext) and weather* (9468022)

12.55 Home and Away (Teletext) (9476041) **1.25 Coronation Street** (r) (Teletext) (73937751)

1.55 A Country Practice (s) (86335409) **2.20 The Chrystal Rose Show** (s) (58634848) **2.50 High Road** (Teletext) (1657596) ***3.20 ITN News*** *headlines (Teletext)* (4720799) **3.25 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (4712770)

3.30 Rosie and Jim (s) (8929119) **3.45 Warner Brothers Cartoons** (8917374) **4.00 Zzzap!** (r) (s) (6426645) **4.15 Tiny Toon Adventures** (7862935) ***4.40 Delicious*** *(Teletext) (s)* (7858799)

5.10 After 5 with Lorraine Kelly. *(Teletext)* (4459022)

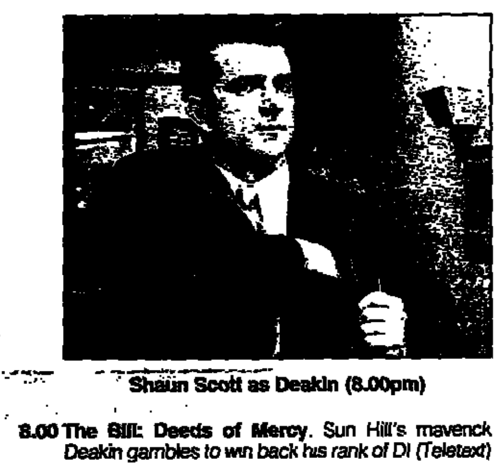
5.40 News *(Teletext) and weather* (417515)

6.00 Home and Away (r) *(Teletext)* (524312)

6.25 London Tonight *(Teletext)* (658732)

7.00 Bruce Forsyth's Play Your Cards Right. The comedian hosts the game show where prizes are won or lost on the turn of a card (Teletext) (s) (2138)

7.30 Coronation Street (Teletext) (515)



Shaun Scott as Deakin (8.00pm)

8.00 The Bill: Deeds of Mercy. Sun Hill's maverick *Deakin gambles to win back his rank of DI (Teletext)* (1886)

8.30 Time after Time. Comedy with Brian Conley as an ex-con trying to go straight (Teletext) (s) (5503)

9.00 The Ruth Rendell Mystery: The Strawberry Tree. In the final part Petra is left a rich woman by *the deaths of her mother, father and husband.* She becomes suspicious when two strangers turn up claiming to be Piers and Rosario. With Lisa Harrow (Teletext) (s) (9139)

10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (60751)

10.30 NEW **Richard Littlejohn - Live and Uncut.** Richard Littlejohn is *joined by* Tim Rice and Eve Pollard to take a look at the week's big stories (15022)

12.00 London Tonight (Teletext) (4670233)

12.10am Burke's Law (b/w). Millionaire detective Amos Burke tackles another puzzling case in an episode *from the classic TV series. A famous magician is found murdered in bizarre circumstances but a clue* leads Amos to a suspect. With Gene Barry (r) (7568441)

1.05 The James Whale Show (s) (4864423)

2.05 The Chart Show (s) (6207542)

3.00 Noisy Mothers. Rock and heavy metal music *magazine (s) (9632078)*

3.55 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (s) (8818900)

4.30 The New Music featuring Tragically Hip, Common Sense and Elastica (38287)

5.30 ITN Morning News (44813). Ends at **6.00**

CHANNEL 4

6.35 Spiff and Hercules (7169119)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (52867)

9.00 You Bet Your Life (r) (s) (87428)

9.30 FILM: The Gang's All Here (1943) A Busby Berkeley musical starring Alice Faye, Carmen Miranda and Sheila Ryan (97132119)

11.25 The Africa Passion. A documentary following *Jamaica-born, London-raised John Heminway as he makes a 12,000-mile journey across his spiritual* homeland — Africa (r) (4885954)

12.20 The Thames. Vintage animation from the *Magic Paintbox* series (6579119)

12.30 Sesame Street The guest is Annette Bening (r) *(41003)* ***1.30 The Magic Roundabout*** *followed by* **The Wombles, Paddington** and **The Clangers** (r) (65069515)

1.55 Profiles Of Nature: The Coot. A profile of the aggressive aquatic bird (r) (65044206)

2.25 Channel 4 Racing From Sandown Park. Live coverage of the **2.35, 3.05, 3.40** and ***4.10*** races (12985023)

4.30 Fifteen-To-One. *(Teletext) (s)* (428)

5.00 Deadline (r). (Teletext) (s) (1356).

5.30 Undercover Britain: The Pits (r). (Teletext) (480)

6.00 Blossom. Los Angeles-based teen comedy. (Teletext) (s) (393)

6.30 Happy Days. Comedy set in 1950s Milwaukee (r). (Teletext) (406577)

6.55 Terrytoons. Classic cartoon featuring Lanat Sam (476596)

7.00 Channel 4 News *(Teletext)* and weather (519654)

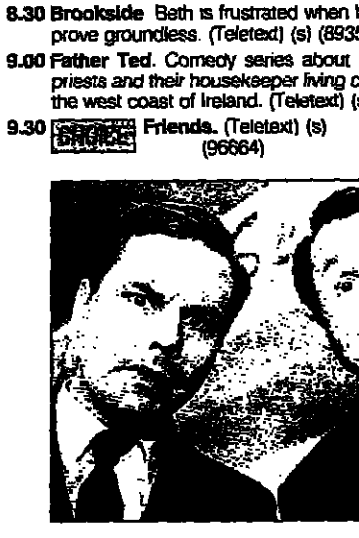
7.50 You Don't Know Me But . . . A person *in the news receives unsolicited advice* (311480)

8.00 NEW **Garden Club: The Isles of Scilly,** presented by Roy Lancaster, Matthew Biggs and Rebecca Pow. (Teletext) (9428)

8.30 Brookside Beth is frustrated when her suspicions prove groundless. (Teletext) (s) (8935)

9.00 Father Ted. Comedy series about three Catholic *priests and their housekeeper living on an island off* the west coast of Ireland. (Teletext) (s) (9645)

9.30 CHOICE **Friends.** (Teletext) (s) (96664)



Jack Dee and Jeremy Hardy (10.00pm)

10.00 CHOICE **Jack and Jeremy's Police 4** (s) (68393)

10.30 Drop the Dead Donkey. *The second in a series of* 13 repeats of the award-winning comedy set in a television news company. (Teletext) (841003)

11.05 Beadasss TV introduced by Ice-T and Andrea Oliver. The guests include Satisfaction, TLC and *Millie Jackson (s)* (468954)

11.40 FILM: The Howling *(1981) starring Dee Wallace* and Patrick Macnee. Horror movie set in northern California. Directed by Joe Dante (534732)

1.20am FILM: It's Never Too Late To Mend (1937, b/w) starring Tod Slaughter. The melodramatic tale *of an evil squire who plots to have his evil way with a* young village maiden. Directed by David MacDonald (8047523). Ends at **2.30**

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

As London except: 12.55 Coronation Street (9476041) **1.25** Home and Away (73937751) **1.55** The Young Doctors (86335409) **2.20-3.20** Murder, She Wrote (4065003) **5.10-5.40** Shortland Street (4459022) **6.25-7.00** Anglia News (658732) **10.40** Love Call Live (241954) **11.40** Bodies of Evidence (810393) **12.35am** The Hidden Room (4419962) **1.00** The New Music (71638) **2.00** The James Whale Show (64523) **4.00** The Album Show (37504) **5.00** *Cinema, Cinema, Cinema* (43349)

CENTRAL

As London except: 2.20 Wish You Were Here...? (58634848) **2.50-3.20** XPress (1657596) **5.10-5.40** Movies, Games and Videos (4459022) **6.25-7.00** Central News and Weather (658732) **10.40** The Accidental Tourist (98277864) **1.00am** On the Live Side (8587707) **4.30** Jobfinder (9727487) **5.20** *Asian Eye* (7623504)

GRANADA

As London except: 12.55-1.25 Shortland Street (9476041) **1.25** Home and Away (49416206) **1.50** Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman (6311935) **2.50-3.20** Wish You Were Here...? (1657596) **3.25-3.30** Granada News (4712770) **5.10-5.40** High Road (4459022) **6.25** Granada Tonight (806480) **6.50-7.00** Kick Off (192022) **10.30** Granada News (256041) **10.40** Three Days of the Condor (47881383) **12.35am** Eye TV (7751900) **1.05** The James Whale Show (4864423) **2.05** The Chart Show (6207542) **3.00** Noisy Mothers (9632078) **3.55** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (8818900) **4.30** The New Music (38287)

HTV WEST

As London except: 9.55-10.00 HTV West Headlines (7571028) **12.20pm-12.30** HTV West News and Weather (6571577) **12.55** Coronation Street (9476041) **1.25** Home and Away (73937751) **1.55** High Road (65046554) **2.25-3.20** Murder, She Wrote (5868205) **3.25-3.30** HTV West Headlines (4712770) **5.10-5.40** A Country Practice (4459022) **6.30-7.00** HTV News (913) **10.30** HTV West Headlines and Weather (256041) **10.40** American Dreamer (47890041) **12.30am** The Twilight Zone (7202694)

HTV WALES

As HTV WEST except: 9.55-10.00 HTV Wales News (7571028) **12.20pm-12.30** HTV Wales News and Weather (6571577) **3.25-3.30** HTV Wales News (4712770) **6.30** Wales Tonight (408835) **6.55-7.00** Party Election Broadcast by Plaid Cymru (478954) **10.30-10.40** HTV Wales News and Weather (256041) **12.35am** The Twilight Zone (7751900)

MERIDIAN

As London except: 12.55 Coronation Street (9476041) **1.25-1.55** Home and Away (73937751) **2.20-2.50** Hairloom (58634848) **5.10** Home and Away (4459022) **5.37-5.40** Three Minutes - Your Story (237374) **6.00-7.00** Meridian Tonight (93577) **10.00** News at Ten; Weather (60751) **10.30** Meridian News and Weather (247393) **10.45** Street Legal (227374) **11.40** Magnum (810393) **12.35am** The Hidden Room (4419962) **1.00** The New Music (71638) **2.00** The James Whale Show (64523) **4.00** The Album Show (37504) **5.00** Freescreen (43349)

WESTCOUNTRY

As London except: 12.55 Coronation Street (9476041) **1.25** Home and Away (73937751) **1.55-3.25** Murder, She Wrote (6310206) **5.10-5.40** *Home and Away* (4459022) **6.00-7.00** Westcountry Live (93577) **10.30** Westcountry News (256041) **10.40** Married with Children (855472) **11.10** Bodies of Evidence (190916) **12.05am** Gaz Top Non Stop (3963833)

YORKSHIRE

As London except: 12.55 Coronation Street (9476041) **1.25-1.55** Home and Away (73937751) **2.20-3.10** *Murder, She Wrote* (6879688) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (4459022) **5.55** Calendar (952935) **6.30-7.00** On Your Marks (913) **10.30** Calendar News and Weather (256041) **10.40** Dr Phibes Rises Again (62748190) **12.20am** Married with Children (3986788) **12.50** The James Whale Show (5714542) **1.50** The Big E (1724610) **2.45** The Beat (4433252) **3.40** Shift (6323417) **4.30** Prawns, Cockles, Mussels, Whelks (81287) **5.00** Sportsworld (43349)

S4C

Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakfast (52867) **9.00** You Bet Your Life (87428) **9.30** The Gang's All Here (97132119) **11.25** The Africa Passion (4885954) **12.20pm** Thames (6579119) **12.30** Slot Meithrin (9466564) **12.55** Sesame Street (2305598) **1.55** Undercover Britain (65044206) **2.25** Channel 4 Racing From Sandown Park (12985023) **4.30** Saved By the Bell (428) **5.00** 5 Pump (1356) **5.30** Fifteen To One (480) **6.00** Newyddion (977480) **6.15** Heno (386461) **7.00** Pobol Y Cwm (3480) **7.30** Penwythnos Mawr (157) **8.00** Ma'lan 'Ma (9428) **8.30** Darlledliad Etholiadol: Plaid (264393) **8.35** Newyddion (450003) **9.05** *Fferm Llewod* (722003) **9.45** Gwerth Chwech Agoriad Llygad (164472) **10.00** Brookside (68393) **10.30** *Drop The Dead Donkey* (77041) **11.00** Beadasss TV (469683) **11.35** Snwcer: Pencampwriaeth Y Byd (165515) **12.10am-2.00** *Making Mr Right* (376825)

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

6.00am The DJ Kat Show (1134770) **6.01** Amigo and Friends (1134770) **6.05** Mrs Pepperpot (1133041) **6.10** Dynamo Duck (1219206) **6.30** Spiderman (63409) **7.00** The New Transformers (76461) **7.30** Double Dragon (95596) ***8.00*** *The Mighty Morphin Power Rangers* (17683) **8.30** Blockbusters (16954) **9.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (31935) **10.00** Concentration (47461) **10.30** Card Sharks (96190) **11.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (71916) **12.00** The Urban Peasant (10720) **12.30pm** Anything But Love (34848) **1.00** St Elsewhere (22003) **2.00** Matlock (48190) ***3.00*** *The Oprah Winfrey Show* (9889138) **3.50** The DJ Kat Show (2029157) **3.55** Double Dragon (4873138) **4.30** The Mighty Morphin Power Rangers (6848) **5.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (2157) **6.00** Murphy Brown (1111) **6.30** Family Ties (1393) **7.00** Rescue (3986) **7.30** M*A*S*H (7577) **8.00** The Andrew Newton Hypnotic Experience (9206) **8.30** Coppers (1041) **9.00** Walker, Texas Ranger (65732) **10.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (75119) ***11.00*** *Late Show with David Letterman* (763886) **11.50** The Untouchables (341848) **12.45am** Chances (4193900) **1.30** The New WKRP in Cincinnati (76810) **2.00-6.00** Hit Mix

SKY NEWS

News on the hour.
6.00am Sunrise (5427041) ***8.30*** *Sky Worldwide Report* (14886) **10.30** ABC Nightline (94732) **11.00** News and Business (861954) **1.30pm** CBS News (77867) **2.30** Parliament (24954) **3.30** The Lords (9709) **4.00** News and Business (50312) ***5.00*** *Live at Five* (8804935) **6.05** Richard Littlejohn (8398312) **7.30** O.J. Simpson (2551119) **12.30am** CBS News (3906436) **1.10** Richard Littlejohn (5435694) **2.30** Parliament Replay (23962) ***3.30*** *The Lords* (35707) **4.30** CBS News (61349) **5.30-6.00** ABC News (96813)

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Showcase (2514696) **10.00 3 Ninjas** (1992) (39864) **12.00 Lad: A Dog** (1962) (52393) **2.00pm Bonanza: The Return** (1993) (652587) **3.35 Hello, Dolly!** (1969) (85627935) **6.00 3 Ninjas** (1992): As 10am (34925954) **7.40 US Top Ten** (417003) **8.00 The Man Without a Face** (1993) (74480) **10.00 Deep Cover** (1992) (529480) **11.50 The American Samurai** (1991) (35059577) **2.00am Pet Sematary Two** (1992) (82694) **4.00 Sophal** (1993) (20417)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

2.00pm Showcase (49003) **4.00 Madame X** (1966) (6393) **6.00 Tall in the Saddle** (1944) (88867) **8.00 Andrei Rublev** (1966) (623916) **11.00 The Immortal Story** (1969) (41374) **12.00-2.00am Harold and Maude** (1971) (58287)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am The Beast of Hollow Mountain (1956) (9434374) **7.20 Colt .45** (1950) (2552003) **8.35 Tintin and the Lake of Sharks** (1972) (8988480) **10.00 The Vengeance of She** (1967) (36206) **12.00 The Big Street** (1942) (50935) **2.00pm Mom and Dad Save the World** (1993) (80041) **4.00 Tintin and the Lake of Sharks** (1972). *As 8.35am* (5003) ***6.00 The Magnificent Ambersons*** (1942) (49954) **7.30 The Movie Show** (3515) **8.00 The Distinguished Gentleman** (1992) (72022) **10.00 Running Cool** (1993) (527022) **11.50 Midnight Sting** (1992) (195596) ***1.30am Precious Victims*** (1993) (160252) **3.05-5.00 Knightriders** (1981) (27764165)

● *For more film information, see the* **Vision supplement, published Saturday**

SKY SPORTS

7.00am Soccer News (5958374) **7.15** WWF Action Zone (636577) **8.15** Soccer News (1220438) **8.30** Pole Position (94751) **9.30** Aerobics (87751) **10.00** Golf: Anderson *Consultancy Challenge* (87515) ***12.00*** ATP Tennis, Live: Monte Carlo Open (2369022) **5.00pm** Transworld Sport (5645) **6.00** Soccer Weekend (86886) **7.00** Schoolboy Football: Victory Shield, Live — England v Scotland (30683) ***9.00*** Ringside (31799) **11.00** Sky Soccer Weekend (36867) **12.00** Soccer Magazine (64720) **12.30-2.30am** Schoolboy Football Victory Shield (21287)

SKY SPORTS 2

6.00am End Zone (4104428) **7.00** Australian Rules Football (3933848) **9.00** Ford Scorpio Golf USA (8890596) ***11.00-12.00*** ATP Tennis (3922732)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Eurofun (24022) **8.00** Mountainbike (44312) **8.30** Tennis (43683) **9.00** Olympic Magazine (34935) **9.30** Ice Hockey (42374) **11.00** Motorcycling (74916) **11.30** Formula One (75645) ***12.00*** *Live Formula One* (75770) **1.00pm** Football (97480) **3.00** Snooker (71751) **4.30** Wrestling (97843) **5.30** Formula *One* (79916) ***6.30*** *News* (9577) **7.00** Live Ice Hockey (118409) **10.00** Formula One (23913) **11.00** Motorsports (21935) **12.00-12.30am** News (64749)

SKY SOAP

8.00am *Loving* (7801022) **8.30** Peyton Place (7800393) **9.00** As The World Turns (4747854) **10.00** Guiding Light (3821003) **11.00-12.00** Another World (3841867)

Lana Turner in *Madame X* (Sky Movies Gold, 4.00pm)

SKY TRAVEL

12.00 *Globetrotter* (7811409) ***12.30pm*** *Boomerang* (4195409) **1.00** Caribbean Vacation (3945683) **1.30** The Spice of Life (4168480) **2.00** The Great Escape (4775409) **2.30** Loire Valley and Provence (2139670) **3.00** Whicker's World (1660312) ***4.00*** *Sky Travel Guide* Review (8434082) **4.30** Boomerang (2034025) **5.00** Great Escapes (4759461) **5.30-6.00** The Spice of Life (4034206)

TLC

9.00am The Joy of Painting (8105490) **9.30** Simply Delicious (2502409) **10.00** House Style (2109022) ***10.30*** *Park High* (2705454) **11.00** Only Human (4365515) **11.45** Draw with Don (40573954) **12.00** The Heart of *Healing* (2585732) ***1.00pm*** *Simply Delicious* (4073428) **1.30** Painting (2505596) **2.00** Right or Wrong (3737190) **2.30** Somebody's *Children* (8146916) **3.00** House Style (3758225) **3.30-4.00** Acorn (8141461)

UK GOLD

7.00am Give Us a Clue (4076515) **7.30** Neighbours (4055022) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (5155175) **8.30** EastEnders (6505616) **9.00** The Bill (2800008) **9.30** All Creatures Great and Small (6343461) **10.30** *Casualty* (25438585) ***11.35*** *Going for Gold* (85563225) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (2905652) **12.30pm** Neighbours (2508683) **1.00** EastEnders (4075886) **1.30** The Bill (2507954) **2.00** My Name Is Harry Worth (3746848) **2.30** Triangle (6148374) **3.00** Knots Landing (8688393) **4.00** Dallas (8607428) **5.00** Going for Gold (84098867) ***5.25*** *XYZ* (84077374) **5.50** Hi-De-Hi (2800799) **6.30** EastEnders (8163683) **7.00** Sweet Sixteen (3740664) **7.30** Father, Dear Father (8169867) **8.00** The Dawson Watch (3759312) **8.30** Fresh Fields (3745119) **9.00** *Casualty* (6608645) ***10.00*** *The Bill* (1555111) **10.30** Miami Vice (3684022) **11.30** Top of the Pops (8892799) **12.15am** Dr Who: The Claws of Axos (9104610) **12.45** FILM: This is Spinal Tap (1984) (2891393) **2.15** Shopping

THE CHILDREN'S CHANNEL

6.00am Sesame Street (83848) **7.00** Sonic the Hedgehog (76428) **7.30** Creepy Crawlers (57935) **8.00** Degrassi (88770) **8.30** Super Mario Brothers (8559645) **8.45** Casper and *Friends* (8587428) ***9.00*** *Sesame Street* (37157) **10.00** Pre-School (16041) **12.00** Madeline (98157) **12.30pm** Pre-School (21225) **2.30** Barney (6886) **3.00** Dinobabies (8751) **3.30** Sonic (8003) **4.00** California *Dreams* (7138) ***4.30-5.00*** *Degrassi* (6022)

NICKELODEON

7.00am *NickAlive!* (5956916) **7.15** Pee-Wee (683225) **7.45** Rugrats (682596) **8.15** Doug (768480) **8.45** NickAlive! (4703916) **9.00** Nick Jr (454848) **12.00** Carmen San Diego (27645) **12.30pm** Denver (76409) **1.00** Smoggies (17732) **1.30** Galaxy High School (68480) **2.00** Alvin and the Chipmunks (3428) **2.30** Henry's Cat (3770) **3.00** Grimmy (2935) **3.30** Carmen San Diego (5515) **4.00** Rude Dog (4022) **4.30** Rugrats (8026) **5.00** *Clarissa* (7480) **5.30** Odyssey (4886) **6.00** Doug (1799) **6.30-7.00** Are You Afraid of the Dark? (5751)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Wildside (6698770) **5.00** Arthur C. *Clarke's Mysterious Universe* (3751770) **5.30** Arthur C Clarke's Mysterious World (8140732) **6.00** Invention (5368664) ***6.35*** Beyond 2000 (5636683) **7.30** Fire (8167409) **8.00** The Dinosaurs! (8819751) **9.00** The *Sexual Imperative* (6638515) ***10.00*** *Future* Quest (3355193) **10.30** Invention (1355913) **11.00-12.00** Aussies (4050577)

BRAVO

12.00 FILM The Stranger's Hand (1954) (2116312) **2.00pm** The Avengers (2104577) **3.00** The Bill Cosby Show (3743751) **3.30** Hogan's Heroes (8178515) **4.00** FILM: Dark Star (1974) (2808480) **5.30** Drama Classics (8177886) ***6.00*** *It's Garry Shandling's Show* (8174799) **6.30** The Wild Wild West (9083119) **7.30** Saber of London (8154935) **8.00** The Avengers (6613577) **9.00** The Twilight Zone (6681480) **9.30** FILM The *Small World of Sammy Lee* (1963) (4931751) **11.30-12.00** Duffy's Tavern (2192732)

UK LIVING

6.00am Agony Hour (5277157) **7.00** Living Magazine (2884119) **9.00** All Well and Good (6422138) ***9.30*** *Kate and Allie* (1704190) **10.05** Mr Smith's Indoor Garden (1279480) **10.35** The Susan Powter Show (18467799) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (7024848) **11.55** The Simple Programme *(74878409)* ***12.00*** *Kilroy* (9984954) ***12.55pm*** A Tastes of Wales (6929848) **1.30** The New Mr and Mrs Show (1427157) **2.00** Agony Hour (5280770) **3.00** Living Magazine (7664654) **4.00** Infatuation UK (8583848) ***4.30*** *Crosswits* (1969596) **5.05** The Joker's Wild (11141577) **5.30** Mediterranean Cookery (1238206) **6.05** The Susan Powter Show (6609770) **6.30** Infatuation (3081848) **7.05** Crosswits (1094747) **7.35** The Joker's Wild (2526848) ***8.00*** *The Young and the Restless* (2408481) **8.55** The Simple Programme (8841428) **9.00** FILM Chase (1985) (30774157) **10.50** Gladrags (5254954) **11.00** Hit and Run (7684428) **11.30-12.00** *Infatuation UK* (5285225)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm *Dangermouse* (6616) **5.30** Gladiators 2000 (7374) **6.00** My Two Dads (7515) **6.30** Catchphrase (8867) **7.00** Busman's Holiday (6472) **7.30** Road to Avonlea (86490) **8.30** Home to Roost (8515) **9.00** Sirens *(52206)* ***10.00*** *Trivial Pursuit* (99686) **10.30** Dangermouse (75206) **11.00** Lou Grant (54848) **12.00** Zorro (67726) **12.30am** Rhoda (39455) **1.00** Trivial Pursuit (11233) **1.30** Rhoda (54436) **2.00** Christy (88165) ***3.00*** *Lou Grant* (35810) **4.00** Rhoda (17374) **4.30-5.00** Zorro

MTV

5.00am Awake on the Wildside (74146) **6.30** The Grind (27206) **7.00** 3 from 1 (1818732) **7.15** Awake on the Wildside (6374954) **8.00** VJ Ingo (360935) **11.00** Soul (68041) **12.00** *Greatest Hits* (28886) **1.00pm** The Afternoon Mix (42026) **2.00** 3 from 1 (18520515) **2.15** The Afternoon Mix (9895409) **3.00** Cinematic *(4008461)* ***3.15*** *The Afternoon Mix* (5439683) **4.00** MTV News (6022003) **4.15** The Afternoon Mix (6045954) **4.30** Dial MTV (8480) **5.00** Real World 1 (2954) **5.30** Music Non-Stop (57138) **7.00** Greatest Hits (58480) **8.00** Alternative Music (74428) **9.00** The *Worst of Most Wanted* (21848) **9.30** Beavis and Butthead (29515) **10.00** MTV News (341480) **10.15** Cinematic (346935) **10.30** The Zig and Zag Show (77664) **11.00** Partyzone (26225) **1.00am** Soul (86184) **2.00** *Night Videos* (2454900)

VH-1

7.00am Crawling from the Wreckage *(3944954)* ***9.00*** *Café* VH-1 (7156583) **1.00** The Bridge (6859577) **1.30pm** Ten of the Best (1581954) **2.30** Heart and Soul (8585393) **3.30** Into the Music (7853480) **6.00** Prime Cuts (4106886) **7.00** VH-1 to You (8680119) ***8.00*** VH-1 Soul (8699887) **9.00** Ten of the Best (8679003) **10.00** Jonathan Ross Presents (7814596) **11.00** Old Grey Whistle Test (7890916) **12.00** Around and Around (3924190) **12.30** The Nightly (9730691) **2.00pm** Ten of the Best (2497146) **3.00-7.00** Dawn Patrol

CMT EUROPE

Country music from ***8am*** *to* ***7pm***, including at **5.00** Saturday Nite Dance Ranch **6.00-7.00** Big Ticket

ZEE TV

7.00am Asian Morning (61616225) **8.30** Rishtey (43660206) **9.00** Tara (4364886) **9.30** Film Deewane (19892886) **10.00** Antakshri (12669157) **10.30** Parampara *(43673770)* ***11.00*** *Sauda* (99907577) **11.30** Kachwa Aur Khargosh (99908206) **12.00** Campus (43664022) **12.30pm** Sapan Sajan (19863374) **1.00** Gujarati FILM: Nasib Ni Chunari (49777596) **4.00** Pakistani Serial Padosi (99921157) **5.00** Film Dosti (95791190) **5.30** Zee and U (50418119) **6.00** Amar Nam Bakul (53688616) **6.30** Campus (69963008) **7.00** BBCD (98711954) **7.30** Chakravyuha (77068472) **8.00** News *(95797374)* ***8.30*** *Filmi Chakker* (96716409) **9.00-12.00** Hindi FILM: Jetha (2362[illegible])

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from 5am to 7pm, then TNT films as below.
Theme Clowning Around
7.00pm Dough Boys (1930) (7834504) **8.30 Lost in a Harem** (1944) (1981816) **10.00 George Washington Slept Here** (1942) (20363119) **11.35 Kill or Cure** (1962) (56206374) **1.10am Light Up the Sky** (1960) (39218417) **2.40-5.00 Dough Boys** (1930) As 7pm (11238504)

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TENNIS 37

BRITAIN RELYING ON
UNTRIED PAIR FOR
DAVIS CUP SUCCESS

SPORT

FRIDAY APRIL 28 1995

CRICKET 39

IMPRESSIVE TUFNELL
TURNS THE TIDE
FOR MIDDLESEX

Scot becomes third player to compile maximum at Crucible

Hendry turns 147 dream into reality

By Phil Yates

STEPHEN HENDRY fulfilled one of his few remaining ambitions in snooker by recording a 147 maximum break in his semi-final with Jimmy White in the Embassy world championship at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, yesterday.

"Now I've done it all and, as far as I'm concerned, this is the jewel in the crown. To make a 147 here is something I've always wanted to do," Hendry, who ended a memorable session holding an 8-7 lead, said.

The perfect run, only the third at the game's most famous venue, arrived in the twelfth frame when Hendry potted 15 reds, 15 blacks and the six colours to collect a £147,000 bonus — the largest amount paid out for a maximum. Cliff Thorburn, of Canada, pocketed £20,000 for the Crucible's first 147 in 1983 while White banked £100,000 three years ago.

A total of 23 maximums have now been constructed in professional competitions and Hendry, who also made one in the 1992 Matchroom League, has now joined Thorburn, James Wattana and Peter Ebdon in registering two.

Hendry, who will be given the keys to a new Ferrari should he retain the title on Sunday, and collect the £190,000 first prize that goes with it, will thereby exceed £1 million in prize-money from the event since making his world championship debut in 1986.

Like all such efforts, the break included a number of critical shots. Position from the final red, which he thumped to a balk pocket, was far from a formality but the shot which required nerves of steel was the blue.

Hendry, who later admitted that his legs were shaking, delicately potted it to a distant balk pocket and softly stunned the cue-ball into the pink. That left him an elementary cut to the middle which required the cue-ball to go in and out of balk for the black on its spot.

Although he slightly overran ideal position, Hendry calmly rolled in the black to ensure yet another entry in the game's record books. "Stephen was too good a player not to make one here eventually. It was a fantastic break," White said.

At that point Hendry was leading 8-4 and in a seemingly unstoppable groove. He had accounted for the previous frame with a clinical 119 clearance and the maximum was his seventh century of this year's championship and the 47th since he first graced the Crucible nine years ago.

DETAILS

SEMI-FINALS: S Hendry (Scot) leads J White (Eng) 8-7. Frame scores (Hendry first). 26-77, 67-2, 69-24, 1-73, 84-0, 73-1, 8-74, 105-27, 86-20, 0-93, 119-11, 147-0, 39-87, 9-81, 17-82. N Bond (Eng) leads A Hicks (Eng) 11-3. Frame scores (Bond first): 66-73, 63-39, 74-18, 127-0, 59-38, 61-47, 70-45, 102-14, 8-62, 88-41, 0-87, 78-0, 72-58, 74-0.

Order of play today: 10.30 Hendry v White, 3.0 Bond v Hicks (if required); 7.30 Hendry v White

The one worrying statistic for Hendry, who is attempting to win the title for a fourth year in succession, is that the five players who preceded him by constructing a 147 in front of television cameras did not go on to win the tournament. After such a break it was hardly surprising that Hendry's concentration was affected and White, who contributed well to the highest-quality session of this year's event, was able to force his way back into contention.

Leading 38-0 in the thirteenth frame, Hendry missed a relatively easy red to a middle pocket. White won the frame with a 67 break from the resultant chance and added the closing two frames of the afternoon with runs of 80 and 82 as Hendry continued to be inaccurate by his own high standards.

Nigel Bond, whose only appearance in the final of a ranking event came when he lost 10-5 to Hendry in the 1990 Rothmans Grand Prix, quietly converted a 6-1 overnight lead into a commanding 11-3 advantage against Andy Hicks.

Bond, the world No 11, earns a healthy living by being consistent but, in six years as a professional, his solitary tournament success has been the 1992 Kings Cup, a low-key competition in Thailand, to which only two British players are invited.

Cueing sweetly yesterday, Bond scored heavily and, adopting an aggressive but sensible shot-selection policy, he powered on. Far from freezing in the most important match of his career, Bond has revelled in the attention.

That was obvious as he began the second session with a 101 clearance to lead 7-1. Hicks won the ninth and led 41-0 in the next when Bond dug in a long red to initiate the well-worked 68 break with which he moved 8-2 ahead.

A Crucible debut is draining, no matter how successful, and Hicks, who has already eliminated Steve Davis, Willie Thorne and Peter Ebdon, has expended copious amounts of mental energy. A degree of mental burn-out is therefore understandable and it began to show in yesterday's first session.

He won the eleventh without conceding a point but any hopes of a sustained fightback were ended as Bond accounted for the next three with runs of 47, 45 and 43.

ERIC WHITEHEAD

White can only watch as Hendry piles up the points at the Crucible yesterday

Cantona rejects Italian offer to remain at Old Trafford

By Peter Ball

ERIC CANTONA is set to stay with Manchester United. The club has called a press conference this morning which, barring any last-minute hitches, will confirm that the player has agreed a new three-year contract.

Cantona, his agent, Jean-Jacques Bertrand, and Martin Edwards, the United chairman, reached an outline agreement in meetings lasting over eight hours on Monday. Cantona and the United chairman were meeting again last night to finalise matters, but all the indications are that Cantona has decided to stay, effectively ending speculation that he will join Internazionale of Milan this summer.

"It is true that things are looking very positive in negotiations," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said yesterday. "There are strong indications that Eric is happy with the new contract that has been offered to him." The news will come as a shock to Internazionale, who had first option on Cantona's services if he decided to leave United and were still confident yesterday that they would get their man.

Cantona is suspended from football until October for his assault on a Crystal Palace supporter at Selhurst Park at the end of January, but this decision ends a traumatic few months for both player and club. There were fears — and hopes in some quarters — that Cantona would decide he would be too much of a marked man to continue his career in England when his suspension ends.

His feeling for the club, however, and the support he has received from players and supporters have persuaded him to stay, even though he would have made more money from moving to Italy. Internazionale offered him in the region of £25,000 a week.

United can feel only relief that the key figure in the side will stay to lead their pursuit of the FA Carling Premiership next season, since his absence has played such a significant part in their (probable) loss of it this year.

Cantona's action, followed by the dismissal of Roy Keane in the semi-final replay against Palace, has led to some overheated criticism of United and some have suggested that United should let Cantona leave Old Trafford. The way he accepted exemplary punishment from United, the Football Association and the courts for his actions in January has convinced the club, however, that he has been punished enough, with his work with children in carrying out his community service winning approval.

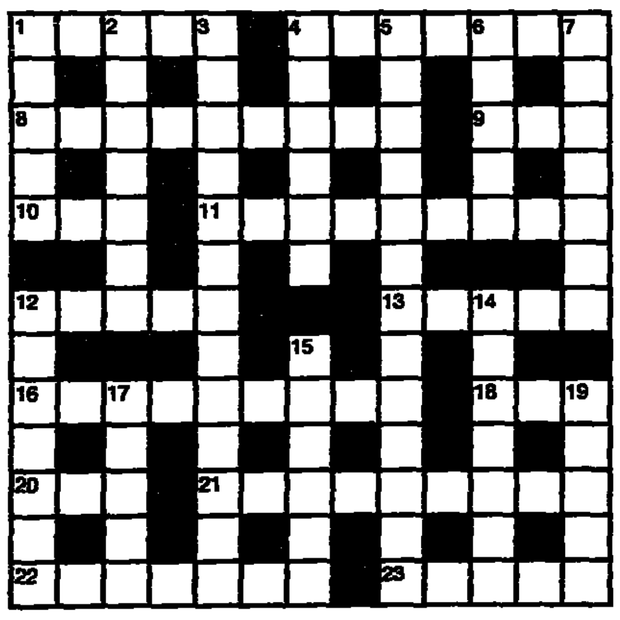
What response he will get from spectators on away grounds if and when he does return in the autumn remains to be seen. In a week when Graham Taylor, the Wolverhampton Wanderers and former England manager, and some of his players were spat upon when they left the field at Bramall Lane, there must be fears that rival supporters — and indeed some unscrupulous opponents — may try to provoke him, but Cantona and United have decided to take the risk.

Cantona: support

☐ The Wimbledon manager, Joe Kinnear, has been banned from the touchline until October 31 and fined £1,500 after being found guilty of misconduct by the Football Association. The Wimbledon captain, Vinnie Jones, has also been found guilty of misconduct and fined £1,750 and warned as to his future conduct.

Kinnear was punished for calling the referee, Mike Reed, a "cheat", after a defeat at Newcastle in January and another referee, Robbie Hart, a "little Hitler" last month. Jones was punished for another incident after the Newcastle game.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 457

ACROSS
- 1 Explode; spoil (2,3)
- 4 Tackle objective determinedly (2,3,2)
- 8 Physical, material (9)
- 9 Ex-Portuguese Indian territory (3)
- 10 Electrical resistance unit (3)
- 11 Plump condition (9)
- 12 Go!; therefore (5)
- 13 Mean; cramped; difficult (5)
- 16 Tiny (computer) circuit-board (9)
- 18 Big vase (3)
- 20 Rocky hill (3)
- 21 Thrown away (9)
- 22 Wildly enjoyable; out of control (7)
- 23 Uncanny (5)

DOWN
- 1 Small tropical lizard (5)
- 2 Rower (7)
- 3 Since the very beginning (4,3,4,2)
- 4 Adopts as authority; passes (4,2)
- 5 Make sense (as part of whole) (4,4,5)
- 6 Scoundrel (5)
- 7 Passage across (7)
- 12 Burrowing rodent, a pet (7)
- 14 Fail (of business); sink (2,5)
- 15 Dissertation (6)
- 17 Freight (5)
- 19 Jog (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 456

ACROSS: 7 Father-figure 9 Redoubt 10 Deter 11 Zeal 12 Tricycle 15 Prejudge 17 Peel 19 Vogue 21 El Greco 22 Newfoundland

DOWN: 1 Hardware 2 Shout 3 Crater 4 Viaduct 5 Bust 6 George Eliot 8 Crazy paving 13 Cheyenne 14 Jukebox 16 Greens 18 Agile 20 Gawp

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Mansell encouraged in spite of modest display

From Oliver Holt in Imola

NIGEL MANSELL emerged from the McLaren garage yesterday into a sea of cameras and smiles. It had been a modest performance by his standards but his position after two practice sessions did not really matter. The saga of the cramped cockpit was over and Formula One's elder statesman was back.

There was a neat symbolism about the coincidence of the return of the 1992 world champion at this, of all, races. Last year, the San Marino Grand Prix claimed the life of one hero — Ayrton Senna; this year, it may resurrect the career of another. A banner tied on the hoardings opposite the pits summed it up. "Il Leone, roar for us again", it read.

By the end of the afternoon session, Mansell had climbed to eighth in the standings, more than 2.5 seconds behind the Ferrari of Jean Alesi. But that did little to dull his spirits. "Can I have a bottle of champagne, please," Mansell said. "I have just finished a session."

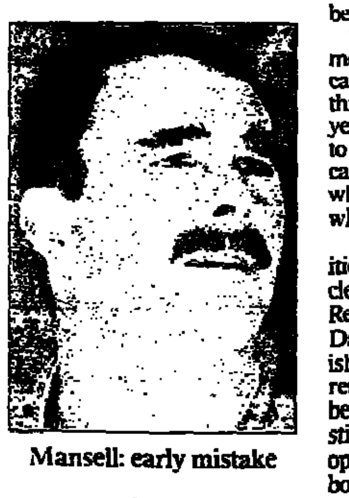
The talk was not of problems ahead but of the wonder of his new car. The McLaren-Mercedes MP4/10B was built for him in 33 days and Mansell could not find enough superlatives to thank his team and the sponsor, Marlboro, for their efforts. It may not be a Williams or a Benetton yet — but at least he can drive it in comfort.

Ironically, given the highest of high-tech rebuilds that McLaren have executed, Mansell was undone in the first session by a basic memory lapse, feeling for a clutch pedal that has been replaced by a button on the steering wheel, hitting the brakes instead and spinning as a result. He had completed only one flying lap at the time.

"I didn't want to work too hard on my first day back," Mansell said. "It was my mistake. They have moved the clutch, haven't they. I hit the brakes instead. Then the car stuck in gear so they couldn't move it.

"The afternoon was a lot better and the work the team has done on the car is sensational. I have got to get used to it now but I am very pleased. I have got something to build on. The job everyone has performed is outstanding.

"The car is tremendously more comfortably for me than the old one. There was several times when I was on the edge as I explored the limits of the car. But because there was more room in the cockpit, I was able to regain control. That would not have been possible in the old one and I would certainly have gone off. I am encouraged but I hope people do not expect too much too soon."



Mansell: early mistake

The air of celebration and excitement surrounding Mansell's reappearance did much to lift the air of apprehension hovering over the return of action to the track where Senna was killed on the seventh lap of the race last year. The drivers are trying to fix their minds on competition but ceaseless questions push their thoughts back to the accident.

"I am speechless when I'm asked questions about Ayrton," Mansell said. "You have to put it aside, otherwise you just could not function." Thirty or forty yards away, standing between the same giant trucks from which he emerged ashen-faced last year after Senna's crash, Damon Hill's mind wandered, too.

"This is not just another race," he said. "When you are in the car you forget about all the other things that happened last year but it is not easy to escape the memories. They come back by the mere fact of being here.

"I don't think I am affected more than anyone else. I cannot pretend not to notice things coming back from last year. But everyone wants this to be a good grand prix so we can divorce this venue and what happened last year from what a grand prix should be."

Hill blamed his sixth position on difficulties getting a clear lap in his Williams-Renault and his team-mate, David Coulthard, who finished second, said once the remodelled track had been bedded in, he hoped it would still offer plenty of overtaking opportunities. Above them both, Alesi's leading time should ensure a bumper crowd for the first day of qualifying today.

None of the fans will miss the shrine to Senna at Tamburello but perhaps some of them will also notice that Roland Ratzenberger, the Austrian who died 24 hours before the Brazilian last year, has not been forgotten, either.

On Wednesday, Mika Salo, the Tyrrell driver, placed a solitary bouquet on the wall at Villeneuve where Ratzenberger crashed. Yesterday, Johnny Herbert, of Benetton, visited the same spot and laid more flowers beside it.

Chairmen try again to resolve future

By Christopher Irvine

THE "unanimity" of rugby league club chairmen for a Super League, 20 days ago, did not survive the walk across the car park at Wigan; so, on Sunday, they will try again at Huddersfield.

In three weeks since rugby league's buy-out, it has been racked by division, plundered by Australia of some of its best talent, wrung through the legal and parliamentary mangles, and lost any moral high ground as the abused rugby code by sanctioning a brand of internal discrimination.

Although generally winning the bidding war for leading players in this country, the revenge exacted by the Australian Rugby League (ARL) for the refusal by the Rugby Football League (RFL) to play international matches from next year against non-Super League players has been to buy up three of the Great Britain team — Jason Robinson, Gary Connolly and Lee Jackson — and counting.

The danger of the meeting on Sunday is that it might might heighten confusion.

In the case of five of the six mergers originally proposed, that between Widnes and Warrington was officially abandoned in a second draft of the Super League, and the rest have simply come up against too much bad blood. The exception is the new South Yorkshire club, because Doncaster are dead anyway. Sheffield Eagles will automatically receive the franchise.

John Devereux, of Widnes, became the twentieth British player to sign a loyalty deal to the Super League, but Shaun Edwards, the Wigan and Great Britain captain, is continuing to hold out.

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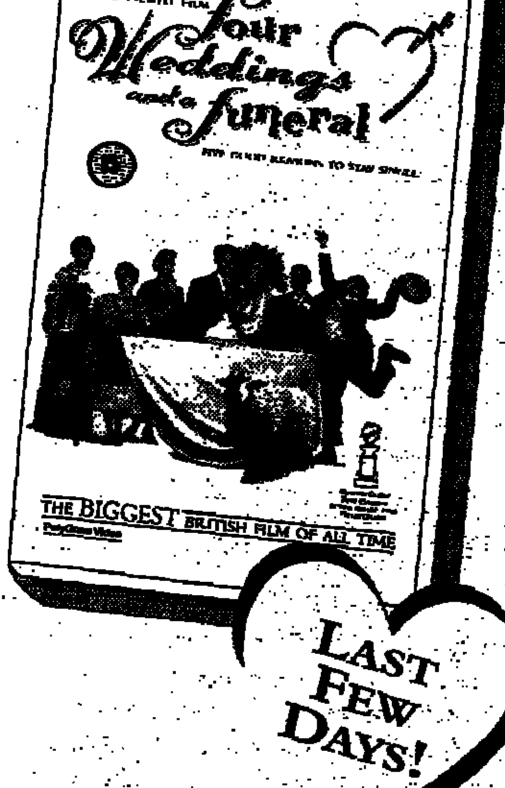
FOUR WEDDINGS, THREE DAYS



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